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REMINISCENCES

OF A

VETERAN.

BEING

PERSONAL AND MILITARY ADVENTURES

IN

PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE, MALTA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND, ANDAMAN ISLANDS, AND INDIA.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

20105

LONDON:
CHARLES J. SKEET, PUBLISHER,
10, KING WILLIAM STREET,
CHARING CROSS.
1861.

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REMINISCENCES

OF

A VETERAN.

CHAPTER I.

Meeting with my Family near Exeter—Bath—Cheltenham—Landscape Painting—Family Tailor—Return to Portugal—Shooting Anecdotes—Apiary—Wine—Battalion ordered to Elvas to do duty there—Alpadrinho—A gay Lothario cooled down for the dance—The Governor of Elvas—Society—Favourite Pointer poisoned—The Battalion ordered to Castro Mariom in the Province of Algarve—A Juez de Faro or Magistrate over-reached—Castro Mariom and Villa Real—Intermittent Fevers—Witchcraft and Charms—Ordered to Cadiz to report the proceedings of the Constitutional and Royalist parties—Massacre of five or six hundred inhabitants on the 10th of March, 1820, by the Spanish Troops—Escape until tranquillity was restored.

RETURNING to England I landed at Falmouth, and I shall not readily forget my first breakfast. It was as unsatisfactory to me, as it was amusing to the waiter at the inn.

I had so many pleasurable recollections of home, sweet home, and the days of my childhood, that I must needs be a child again, and order a mess of bread and boiled milk for my morning's repast, a thing I had never tasted since I left school. Great indeed was my disappointment! I found it required a school-boy's palate to relish it. Although I might, and too often did, act as a child, I was in reality now no longer one, and after a variety of efforts to swallow my meal, I was at last obliged to tell the waiter to bring in a breakfast such as people who had arrived at years of discretion usually took.

I then proceeded on to Exeter where I was to meet my father, but not finding him immediately, I posted off to Teignmouth to see my sister who was at school there.

I seemed to excite a great deal of curiosity, and create quite a sensation amongst the young ladies, and I have no doubt but that my sister told them that I was a young gentleman just returned from the wars, which in a boarding-school for young ladies is in general quite sufficient to produce uproar and excitement, without its being necessary to be the brother of a dear friend.

Although the uniform of my corps was a dark brown rifle jacket, they, (I have no doubt) charit-

ably depicted it in their minds' eye, a red one; for scarlet and glory with them were synonymous terms, and inseparable from happiness. "Women and moths are caught by glare," if they are not also sometimes singed by it.

Returning to the inn at Exeter, I found my father and my little brother, whom I had never seen before, waiting for me.

My father seemed greatly altered and careworn. He had recently been duped by a lawyer, a distant connexion, and when the only alternatives were to submit, or sustain further losses, he could not and would not brook the effects of his own folly and carelessness.

The moment he told me his story, I was convinced on his own shewing that there was no remedy, and I endeavoured to persuade him to submit to his loss and pay it, but he would not, and at length told me that he had not the money available, even if he wished to pay it.

He had previously always told me that when he sold out of the army, the proceeds of his commission as Major, had been invested in the 3 per cent Consols as a provision for myself. My brother and sister being by their mother's family already so well provided for.

I suggested his selling this stock for the purpose

of getting out of his difficulties, telling him that I did not require it; that I had hitherto done very well, and I did not see why I should not continue to do so, but he only became more angry at my recommending him tamely to submit to see his children fleeced, and we well-nigh quarrelled.

He still would have had an ample income, arising principally from a life interest in his late wife's property with property of his own, the reversion of which had been secured to her children by a marriage settlement. He was in embarrassed circumstances ever afterwards; all his ready cash going to the lawyers, in disputing this case and others arising out of it. Fortunately his children's property had been secured to them, or that would have gone also.

The original sum I wanted him to pay was under £1,000. His Consols were now placed in Chancery, and ultimately he received a balance of only £250 or £300.

Fortunately I had adopted Dean Swift's apothegm. "Blessed is the man who expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed." Of the truth of which I was afterwards made sufficiently sensible.

After staying about a week with him, I proceeded

to town, and afterwards to Bath and Cheltenham. At Bath my father's mother resided, as also one of his brothers, and I could not remain there without taking up my quarters with them which would not exactly suit my views, so I made Cheltenham my principal place of residence. The few days I stayed at Bath, I put up at the 'White Hart' and dined with my relations.

Here I met an old friend, Tom O'Neil. He was a good-natured, fine-looking fellow with a strong racy brogue and a plentiful stock of assurance, but I never was more surprised in my life than on learning that he was the leading man of ton and fashion in Bath.

He was a junior Major to me in the Portuguese service, but he had given himself the rank of Colonel. He was now no longer in the Portuguese army, and with only his Captain's half-pay it is difficult to imagine how Tom carried on the war. I was with him one morning in the coffee-room at breakfast, when I observed a very genteel looking foreigner enter, who he told me was a Russian nobleman. He had been staying in the house some time, but appeared to have no introductions and consequently nobody knew him, for this reason he had not made his acquaintance. "Well," I replied, "I do not think a foreigner would act

thus by one of our countrymen." So with the best French I could muster, I entered into conversation with him, but he spoke better English than I could French, at that moment.

He seemed much gratified, and said he had found the place very dull from not knowing any person, and complained of the English being so cold and distant to foreigners. I told him that I was only a stranger there myself and intended leaving the following morning, but if he would allow me I would introduce my friend Colonel O'Neil, who, I was sure would feel happy in rendering him any service in his power. O'Neil seemed as pleased at making his acquaintance as the foreigner was himself, yet they were before, meeting daily, without either making any effort of the kind.

At Cheltenham, my time was not solely occupied with the amusements of the place. I determined on learning to paint landscapes, and took lessons the whole time I was there; very expensive ones they were, and I profited little from the manner in which the instruction was communicated. It was rather late in life to begin such a study, but I observed several others my seniors there. Amongst them I noticed Sir H. Bunbury, formerly Quarter-Master-General in

Sicily and afterwards Under-Secretary of State. The artist was a bad master, all for dash and effect. I opine that purity of outline with the distinguishing character of trees and rocks together with freedom of handling should be first studied, instead of the random dashing style so lauded, but which means anything or nothing, contains no one characteristic feature, and is opposed to everything natural. Care should also be taken (in my opinion) to accustom the eye to embrace large portions and transfer them with a continuous outline readily to paper, instead of smaller portions which occasion a cramped niggling style and manner.

When I first commenced my study from nature, she seemed to me totally different from anything I had copied from drawings at the academy. To make a perfect picture, there seemed to be always too much or something wanting in nature; a scene which pleased me at one hour of the day, did not please me at another. The great difficulty, however, was to select the leading features of the landscape, whether it was its beauty of form or contour, or some particular effect of light and shade, or some happy and pleasing combination of colour. By attaching the same importance to every feature of the landscape you will have a

transcript from nature, but it will not be a pleasing picture, the mind will wander over it confusedly. The epic or poetry of the art, if I may so term it, requires that the minor objects should be kept under, or made subservient to the leading one, which should be the first to strike the eye and imagination, and if any episode is introduced such as figures, &c. &c., it also should be made to contribute to this general effect; but the art should be hidden, and the whole appear a beautiful accidental combination. In water-colours, to mix the tints is easily learnt by overlooking a person mixing them, but to apply them on the paper requires a little reflection. And here I learnt a great deal from a young lady, a Miss Parkinson (the daughter of the celebrated dentist of that name) who was kind enough to allow me to attend her whenever she went to sketch, much more in fact than I ever did from my professor at Cheltenham.

Pure tints laid on with the confidence of a good draughtsman and without mixing the colours will always give the brisk effect so much admired, particularly if the shadows are of the proper tone and made to contrast as in nature with the lights they fall upon, a brown in the cool lights of water, and grey in the warm lights of a sunny road.

From Cheltenham I went to spend a few weeks

with my father, at a cottage he had taken at Speen. In the society of the young lady I have mentioned, at the house of a friend, I spent the most agreeable part of my time. She was a charming little creature of a very clever family, and very musical.

At my father's, I met frequently with Colonel Shelden, Member for Pembroke. He was a very finished, highly polished, old gentleman, and in his younger days had lived a good deal on the Continent. He was also a great sportsman with dog and gun, and he at once offered to make me a present of a pointer bitch of the best breed in England, on condition that should I not like her she was not to be disposed of, but kept by me until we should again meet. He said she had been cowed by a brutal gamekeeper, and was now so timid that she could not bear being chastised. With kind treatment, he, however, conceived her original good qualities might be restored to her.

He promised to send for her, and have her ready by the time I intended to embark. Another of my father's friends promised me some greyhounds, but these I declined, as there were plenty of them with the corps, and I was not particularly fond of coursing. I spent a good deal of my time with the old Colonel. He was full of

anecdote, and had been a very gay character in his youth. He had a son in the army, and one of his daughters was married in France, the other was staying with her. He had been also a first rate violincello player, and still played a little occasionally.

Before leaving, I went up to London for a few days to fit myself out, when my father suggested that I might as well employ a tailor who had worked for the family many years. "He will recollect you when you were a little boy at Richmond. He lives in Conduit Street, Bond Street." To him I went; he said he recollected me perfectly, and I followed him upstairs. We passed a room where his daughter was practising with a master on the piano, and the one into which I was ushered was far better furnished than any that my father could boast of. The tailor was very inquisitive as to what I had been doing with myself for so many years, and a Caçadore jacket he made from a description I gave him, was perfection itself, the braiding in particular. The plain clothes I got from him were equally good, but the bill and charges when I called for them exceeded those of Stultz, who was then in his zenith. "Why mention the charges, Sir?" said he, "I don't want you to pay for them, your father and I will

arrange all that," but on my saying I had long since ceased to require him to pay my bills, he said, "Well that is singular, but I assure you they are my usual charges." I therefore paid him, but on his requesting a continuance of my custom, I said, "When the governor pays for me you shall have it, but not till then."

I have heard of many similar instances of the effects of employing old family tradespeople, who have suddenly risen to opulence—they always charge for "Auld lang sine."

My father was rather annoyed when I told him of his family friend, and he related the fact of his having dined with him, which I was not before aware of, and it was this circumstance that brought him to his recollection, and gave rise to his recommendation. It seems my father being in town, the tailor fished him out, and calling upon him told him with apologies, that the member for the county in which my father resided, was, with one or two other gentlemen he named, going to dine with him, and he would feel greatly obliged if he would join them, to which my father struck by the oddity of the request acceded, and it would seem they passed a very jolly evening.

"And left me," I said to him, "to pay your share of it."

"That was your own fault," he replied, "why did you not take his advice, for if I never pay your bills it is because you are so proud that you won't let me."

It was just as well, for it was always as much as he could do to pay his own accounts, without charging himself with mine.

Whilst in town I purchased a strong, heavy, double-barrelled gun. I foresaw that I should require it to fire ball with sometimes, with a double charge, and I was therefore prepared. Colonel Shelden had it examined for me. It was pronounced fit for the purpose I required, and the pointer having arrived, I took leave of my family to embark for Lisbon, where, having provided myself with a good horse, I proceeded up the country to rejoin my battalion at Penamacor. I arrived there with only a single dollar in my pocket, having so well calculated on my means lasting until the expiration of my leave.

I was now prepared to astonish the natives with my dog and gun, and all my shooting paraphernalia; and having undergone a minute inspection by them, I was ready to take the field as soon as the first rains commenced.

The paved road I have before spoken of, led into the town at the angle of one of the bastions

by a breach in the wall. In this bastion we congregated every evening to pray for rain, and curse the poachers, also to witness the damsels (who were as ugly as ever) passing us to and fro in review, with buckets on their head, to draw water. Here also the relative qualities of dogs and guns, and sportsmen were discussed, and arrangements made for our different excursions. The Portuguese style of sporting is so totally different to ours, that I must commence with a description of it. In the first place a person (the best shot) is constituted General. With him rest all the arrangements, and he must be obeyed. The senior Lieutenant was General when I left there, but he had been displaced by a Captain promoted from another corps, who out of twenty birds, single shots, had killed nineteen. He therefore was pronounced the best man, and was promoted accordingly.

Before the rains, the poachers had it all their own way. They waited at the different springs frequented by the birds in the afternoon and, early in the morning, having secreted themselves, shot down whole coveys when on the ground. To them a dry season was a rich harvest; but after the first showers, the birds could find water any-

where, and in consequence Othello's occupation ceased.

With the officers it used to be a day of feasting and rejoicing, and some of them would even get drunk on the strength of it, particularly if the rain came early in the season, which promised that more birds would escape from the destroyer.

Until this season arrived, we were obliged to content ourselves with shooting quails in the walled enclosures near the town, generally where there was young barley growing. Nothing destroys a pointer sooner. It teaches him to range too close and to puzzle.

To prevent this misfortune occurring, we collected all the curs we could find in the streets, and walked them down to the scene of action. Having stationed ourselves on the walls, we blazed away as fast as the curs could put the quail up, and these were no sooner down than swallowed up by the dogs. Very few birds were we able to save. We otherwise never condescended to shoot at a quail when the shooting season had regularly set in.

Game was in general very plentiful. Partridges, hares, rabbits, and woodcocks rose promiscuously, the only thing which displeased me was the mode of proceeding adopted by the sportsmen. A chain

or line was formed, each man being thirty or forty yards apart. The line advanced, the General being in the centre to conduct the proceedings, and the dogs being so trained that they scarcely ever ranged more than twenty yards from their masters. They were very steady, backed each other well, and most of them were retrievers, that is, they frequently by going in quest of a dead or wounded bird put up the remainder of the covey whilst their master was loading, and thus prevented his getting a second shot.

The partridge in Portugal is the red-legged, a coarse heavy bird which becomes tired and then can scarcely fly; after being put up three or four times their flight is always to the same place. Wherever you fell in with a covey you had put up before, you might calculate where to find them again from the direction they took in their flight, should no accidental circumstance divert their course.

I have said that the General was in the centre of the line. The best walkers and worst shots were kept in the flanks, and the advance was so directed that the best shots or those towards the centre were always directed upon the covey, so that in frequently changing the direction, we on the flank had to go over nearly double the ground and were

worked off our feet for the others to kill the game. This was not all, for it was declared that "Bess," my English pointer, would spoil all the sport, and so she would, for she ranged much wider and was as fast as a greyhound, and as I had other dogs I agreed to leave her at home, but on another point I was deemed most unreasonable, and it ended in a separation of interests. I wanted to be allowed occasionally to fire a shot at a bird or two, but this they would not agree to by any means, unless a stray one got up before me; they said I was a very bad shot and the birds would get away, but they were quite astonished when I told them I wanted to have a shot now then were it only for the pleasure of missing them!

It was customary at the end of the day's sport for each person to bring the game he had killed and place it in a heap. It was then divided equally amongst the party, the worst shot receiving the same share with the General. The share they termed *cunhao*. They asked me if I had not always received mine, but they set me down as a madman when I told them that I did not come there to bring game home for my supper, if that was all I could buy it cheaper and with less toil in the market; so in future I begged they would let me range by myself, all that I wanted was for

them to tell me when they would meet for luncheon; to this they had no objection, particularly to the latter request, as I generally carried with me a plentiful stock of eatables and drinkables.

I now brought my English pointer again into play, and it was really astonishing to see the quantity of game she found and the walking I was saved. Although I was but an indifferent shot, I always brought home much more game than what fell to the share of those shooting in the chain, and I was soon joined by a seceder, who was fond of shooting without being a pot hunter.

All the officers were not sportsmen, and those who were not, assembled with the rest in the Bastion when the unfortunate General and his army used to get a proper bullying.

"You say the Major is a bad shot, and yet he brings home more game than you do. How is that?"

Joining in the laugh against them I replied, "It is because none of them understand their *métier*."

Having nothing else to do, these little jealousies and bickerings kept us alive.

The old and new Generals were also very jealous of each other; the old one taking my part, and the other offering to back himself in any sum

that he would miss fewer shots by one half than I did. I told him I had no doubt that he was a better shot, but he knew nothing of sporting, and to prove it I offered to back myself against him and five of the best shots in the place, to bring home more game for my share than their *cunhao* would amount to. Having said that he would not bet on other people's shooting with him, he was regularly bullied by the whole party; and then I offered to shoot with him single-handed, but shots were not to be counted; this he also wished to evade saying, With my pointer I should find so much more game, and he was not so well acquainted with the country as I was. Here there was a general screech against him, as he had always heretofore pronounced the pointer good for nothing. At length it was agreed that we were to go out together, but at such a distance from each other that the dogs would not interfere with our separate systems.

I took him the following morning to a place where there was a spur of a mountain projecting for some distance into the plain, and where there were plenty of birds. I took the lower part nearest the plain, expecting to get his stray birds as well as my own.

I think he had five or six shots before I got

one; the marker I had with me, however, assured me that he must have been unsuccessful, as he appeared in a great rage with his dog. At length his birds began to descend into the plain, and I never shot so well before. I made a signal at length for him to join me in order to rest a little and take some luncheon.

The game I had killed had been transferred to a haversack carried by my servant, and seeing I had nothing in my bag my opponent seemed quite delighted, saying,

"Well, if you have not filled your bag you must have emptied your powder horn, for I heard you fire eleven shots."

"And I heard you," I replied, "fire nine; pray how many birds have you bagged?"

The birds he said had been wild, and his dog had not behaved so well as usual, and some of the birds he thought he must have hit had got away, he had bagged none. When I desired my servant to produce four brace, he could scarcely believe his eyes. His nervousness increased while shooting our way home, and during the whole day he only shot one quail.

The next day he would not show at all at the bastion, being aware of the ridicule to which he would be subjected; in fact he was so pestered

and quizzed the following day that he fairly ran home again; and to make the matter more ridiculous, the next time he made his appearance they proposed that I should succeed him as General; but he had been now sufficiently punished, so I told them I would have nothing to do with such a set of bunglers as they all were with their dogs running close at their heels. After all I do not think this officer was a better shot than the old Lieutenant; his killing so many birds the first day might have been an accident.

Game at last became very scarce, and we were obliged to make parties to shoot at a distance from home, generally on the Spanish frontier, where we used to stay sometimes for a week together, taking with us our bedding, cooking apparatus, wines, &c. A favourite spot was at a mill where there was a very large barn with straw, &c., and here we accommodated ourselves and horses. I never met a district more thinly populated by man, or where there was more game of every description. We generally turned out after taking an early breakfast, and shooting all day returned in the evening to dinner. We had some capital cooks with us, and most of us played voltarette until bed time over mulled wine, egg-flip, and other compounds, and generally from the effects

of fatigue and liquor, we contrived to sleep on the piled straw at the end of the barn until daylight, unless some of the horses got loose, which occasionally happened, or some wonderful story was told by some fellow, who not being able to sleep himself seemed determined that the others should not either.

We had also sometimes our battues to shoot deer, wolves, and the wild boar, and we occasionally met with an animal resembling a lynx, about twice the size of the domestic cat.

These battues were also conducted in a manner totally different from any I have ever heard of before, or have seen since. The country was so extremely rugged and mountainous, that scouts were sent out to the highest and most commanding pinnacles about an hour or two before daylight, with orders to note the lair to where the deer, after skipping about at day-break, retired; and their number and size.

After ascertaining this, the scouts (generally peasants of the neighbourhood) assembled at some central place to give in their reports, when it was decided which lair was to be commenced with it, wolves and wild boars being always a secondary consideration. A chain was then formed in the greatest silence, so as to enclose the deer, without

disturbing them. In the watered ravines, and gullies, and in swamps, were generally found the hogs; wolves were to be seen every where.

The head of a gully was a good place to be stationed, because the beaters commenced from below, and the hog generally ran up the ravines. It was necessary to be acquainted with the exact spot where your neighbours, right and left, were stationed in ambuscade, lest you might shoot any of them, and to preserve the strictest silence. No dogs were allowed to be with us, except one that I had, a retriever, a privileged creature, because it seemed to be almost as intelligent as a human being, docile and completely under control. None of our party had rifles, their single-barrelled guns were loaded with three large slugs or rather pistol balls, which were supposed to go straighter towards the mark and do more mischief than one bullet would.

The deer generally broke cover first, and frequently three or four of them were killed from each lair. The deer were of two kinds, one a species of antelope, and the other of a large description. The hogs were dangerous to deal with, and if you had not a second barrel, it was better to be near a tree where you could climb up, for when wounded they always stop to listen, and

when they hear a noise and talking, they charge The wolves were cowardly animals when attacked, of large size and dangerous only to dogs who might run in upon them. Before breaking cover they will sneak round the chain two or three times, to discover a place where they can get away unperceived.

On one occasion, when I had my Spanish pointer with me, I was stationed behind a large arbutus bush, the dog being a little behind me at my side. I observed his hair bristling up and creeping up nearer to my side, he appeared anxious to move forward, but with seeming fear. I made a signal with my hand for the dog to be quiet, and he resumed his former place. In about half an hour afterwards the same thing occurred again, and I could only keep him quiet by hitting him with a small twig I had in my hand. The dog made a slight noise from the pain, and I was now convinced that something extraordinary was near me; I got quietly up to look, when on the opposite side of the bush, I perceived an enormous wolf in the act of turning to effect his retreat down the gully, but I had no time to take a deliberate aim. The ground behind me on the crest of the hill was quite clear as it was also immediately round the bush, and I have no doubt that this

was the wolf's second visit to it, and that he had been there some time without my perceiving him. In that gully we only killed one wolf; three others escaped, the dead wolf was of an enormous size.

The flesh of the wild hog here was in thin layers of fat and lean, different from that of the tame animal and of a very strong flavour. The only way I could eat it was as dressed by our sportsmen, after being pickled in wine and garlic for some days.

A considerable quantity of honey and bees' wax, is collected in this wilderness, for so I may call it, very few parts being under cultivation, and these only in small patches.

After having burnt off the jungle, the land is tilled for two or three years and again allowed to lie fallow. I have often been surprised at meeting in the most remote places in this district, where no human habitation is to be seen, walled enclosures, containing about two acres, and having within them probably four or five hundred bee-hives. Their construction is very simple, they being merely pieces of cork bark pared off some neighbouring tree, with the edges pegged or sewn together to make the bark resume its original cylindrical form. These hives or cylinders are

in height about two feet, and are placed on forms about the same height from the ground.. A flat piece of cork is laid on the top, and on that a large stone to prevent the wind displacing it. Pieces of stick are stuck through the hive on which the bees form the comb, and the bees are never destroyed. The owner merely removes the flat lid and takes as much of the comb as he thinks the bees can part with, the remainder is left for their own use during the winter. During the season of swarming, empty hives are left in readiness for the young swarm to occupy.

The wine in the vicinity of Penamacar would have been excellent, but the peasantry always spoilt it in making, by putting in a certain quantity of water, which made its taste bitter. The grape was even more glutinous and luscious than that on the Douro, but their forefathers had so made it before them and nothing could induce these people to alter the manipulation; I was told the wine would be too sweet and luscious to be drinkable, if not so treated.

The regiments of the Portuguese army were all local, and recruited where they were quartered, a certain portion of the men being permitted to work in rotation, when they ceased to receive pay until they returned at the expiration of six months.

A few more, per company, were permitted to work on their giving up a portion of their pay for the messing of their comrades who remained to do duty. But in large fortresses, such as Elvas, the local regiments were not sufficient to do the duties of the garrison; other corps therefore were brought in to do duty for twelve months in rotation, when they returned to their own quarters. We one day suddenly received an order to hold ourselves in readiness, and to assemble the men who were on leave of absence in order to take our tour of the duty of that garrison. It was quite a relief to get away, and the removal put none of us to inconvenience, as neither men or officers had yet commenced making themselves comfortable; that is they had not built houses, taken farms, or got married.

The only place or people in the neighbourhood at all humanized was at Alpadrinho, distant about ten miles towards the Sierra d'Estrella where there was a cloth manufactory; but the circle of gay people there was small and the distance great, (for we generally returned home again immediately after the parties) moreover there was a river to ford which lay in our way.

In this river, the horse of one of our officers, the gayest of the troop, with his rider in full

dress, in his best bib and tucker and prepared for conquest, took it into his head to lie down in the water to cool his master's courage; and when we entered the room where the ladies were assembled, waiting for their partners and prepared for the dance, our gay Lothario looked cold, and more like a drowned rat than a preux chevalier.

The garrison of Elvas was commanded by Brigadier João Lobo Brandão, a knight of Malta, whom I had known before at Abrantes. He was tall and of enormous size. He had moreover a most awe-inspiring squint, and always seemed anxious to appear anything but amiable—at the the same time, a more chivalrous, a better, or a more hospitable fellow never existed.

To me he would abuse the English for not restoring Malta to the knights, saying they were only a shade better than the French who had seized upon the island treacherously. He would next abuse me, saying, that since I and my battalion had arrived, we had not left a hare in the country for his greyhounds to course, and then finish by asking me to dinner or lunch with him; if however, any other Portuguese but himself spoke in disparagement of the English, or attacked me about killing his hares, he would get very angry and roll his squinting eye in a

most terrific manner. He had assumed the entire monopoly, and acted as if he had the exclusive right of abusing my countrymen and would not tolerate it in any other person. He was, however, always easy to pacify. I told him that no officer of the corps would destroy a hare I was sure, when he and so many of our friends were fond of coursing; but the fact was the others had too much to do in the garrison and scarcely ever went out. We never in fact met with any hares, and when we did, we made it a point not to fire at them.

I never was in any country where ague seemed more prevalent. I scarcely ever entered a cottage, when out shooting, to request a drink of water without seeing some of the inmates with an ague fit upon them, particularly in the vicinity of a certain rivulet, in the bed of which was a number of stagnant pools of water. The place was notorious for fevers. When I met the old knight returning to his garrison after a bad day's sport, he would piously wish that I had all the fevers that were contained in the rivulet I have alluded to; but I have always found whenever I have been able to take violent exercise, the enjoyment of good health to be the consequence. I sometimes sent the old knight a few brace of partridges to keep him in good humour, when he would ironi-

cally ask me why I had not sent the hare also. He always prepared the sauce for cold partridge himself. It was the best compound of that nature I have ever tasted.

The society in Elvas was tolerably good, but I frequented only one or two houses, principally that of Brito Mozinho, a brother of the Adjutant-General of the army. This house was better furnished than any I have ever been into in Portugal, except at Lisbon or Oporto. The rooms were decorated with arabesques and painted in fresco as in Italy.

When the period arrived at which we expected the order to return to our former station, we were greatly surprised at the Government ordering the battalion to march in the depth of winter, into the province of Algarve, in quite a different direction from our last station. Our quarters in future were to be at Castro Marim, opposite the Spanish town of Ayamonte, on the banks of the Guadiana, to the extreme south of Portugal. Before leaving Elvas, I sustained a great loss, my favourite Spanish pointer being poisoned by a confounded old maid, a neighbour of mine. Our houses adjoined each other with the same flat roof on which my poor dog was wont to promenade and amuse himself, apart from the vulgar crowd

of other dogs in the street. The old woman (for I will not call her a lady) was fond of flowers and flower pots; my dog was equally curious touching these matters, and not over ceremonious in his manner of treating them. She complained to me of the dog's contemptuous and insulting conduct, I suggested the possibility of the fault being due to her own Grimalkin, whose nocturnal serenades and love meetings had attracted my innocent pointer; but she urged that the "nasty cur" had been detected on her premises in *flagrante delicto* at midnight on the house top; and if he came there again it would be the worse for him. And so it was, poor beast; I ordered him to be tied up, but he looked so pitiable that the servants were induced one day to let him loose again, and he instantly repaired to the scene of his former transgressions, where the old Hecate had a deadly potion in readiness for him, from the effects of which he died in a few days.

I have hated old maids ever since, their cats and flower pots included, and the tribute of my admiration I now only bestow on young ones; these I have found less spiteful, and always ready to listen to an old man's tale of woe, if it be only to laugh at him afterwards. I have the vanity to believe that old bachelors are less exceptionable

characters than old maids, but perhaps we lay that flattering unction to our souls without sufficient grounds.

It was generally believed at Elvas that the greater part of the battalion would desert when the period arrived for their march. The Portuguese peasantry are particularly attached to their own province, and Castro Marim had hitherto been used as a place of exile for political offenders and other criminals, but who were now removed to give place to the troops to be stationed there. The men were four or five months in arrears of pay, with a very insufficient supply of shoes for such a march, and a considerable sum was owing to a person who had contracted for the battalion's messing.

The Lieut.-Colonel met these difficulties by obtaining leave of absence, leaving to me to arrange matters as best I could. This was fortunate, for I took liberties with the Portuguse authorities and government, that his timidity would have made him recoil from doing.

My first step was to write to the authorities of Lisbon, to state that I could not move unless the arrears of pay due to the men were paid up, and that I was in daily fear of being arrested by a Spaniard, who had contracted, on the responsibility

of the commanding officer, to mess the men, and that these men were without shoes proper for so long a march over such bad roads, at such an inclement season of the year. An early decision was requested and it came. I was told it would be a bad precedent to pay one regiment in the service the arrears of pay due to them, and not to pay the others; but I was requested to state the gross amount due to the contractor, and it would be paid, together with a sum to provide the men with shoes, but nothing to subsist them during the march. The sum allowed for the purchase of shoes was much too small, so I decided at once on following the example the Government was setting me, and throwing aside all scruples, I determined as a counter coup to secure as much out of them as I possibly could without their suspecting me. I told the Spaniard who had been the contractor, to put down three or four hundred mil-reas beyond the amount of his bill, and then I wrote to say that the sum allowed for shoes was insufficient, and that I should require nearly double the amount; the money was sent me.

Having sent for the Spaniard, I told him that I had received money to pay him the whole amount of his bill, which I was prepared to do forthwith,

yet I should feel better pleased if he would be satisfied with half, and take a debenture for the remainder on the treasury, to be paid out of the second month's issue of pay to the men.

After a little hesitation he replied, "I am perfectly aware of the position you are in, in order to subsist your men during the march; but I will have no accounts with the Government. If you want it, on your own receipt and responsibility you may not only take the half, but the whole if you require it."

I was a perfect stranger to the man, yet it shewed the high opinion he had of the probity of a British officer.

When I told the old knight, the Governor, of it, he remarked in his own peculiar way, "The scoundrel! It is more than he would do for one of his own countrymen, and I question whether he would do it for me."

I took the half, and remitted it back to him two months after our arrival at Castro Marim.

I now commenced my march under a little better auspices. I adopted the plan of giving every man daily his full day's pay without deduction, leaving him to arrange his messing as he thought fit. The Portuguese and Spaniards although a very temperate people, always take a

glass of raw spirits in the morning when they can get it. They were now enabled to do this, and the novelty of the plan pleased them.

Instead of losing three fourths of the battalion by desertion, as I expected, I only lost two men, a corporal and a bugle player, both of whom deserted the first day.

This long march over a mountainous country, on execrable roads, in the depth of winter, was nearly completed, when I found so many men foot sore, that I applied to the Juiz de Fora, (magistrate) of the village at which we had arrived, for assistance, to enable them to continue their march the following day. My written requisition was for a certain number of mules and donkeys with which the village and neighbourhood abounded; but the pert coxcomb of a magistrate brought me the order of Lord Wellington, limiting the scale for a battalion to a specified number, saying he would not supply any even on payment.

I was determined to be quits with him, so without arguing the matter further, I went to my quarters and wrote him a letter, recalling my requisition, and informing him that I was under the necessity of leaving a number of men behind who were unable to march. They had with them

provisions for that and the following day, afterwards it would be necessary that the village should supply them until they were in a state to be able to continue their march.

These men retained also their arms, ammunition, and accoutrements, and in order that they might have no excuse for exercising violence to obtain food, I trusted that he would see the necessity of supplying them promptly, and punctually on the requisition of the officer who I should leave in charge.

I delivered my letter into his own hands, and I could see that he did not at all approve of any men being left behind, particularly strangers to the province, as our men were, who were all from the north. He told me he would consult with the Cabildo, and give me his answer, which he brought back immediately, saying if I would make out a fresh requisition I should have the transport required; but this I would by no means listen to. Having learned from the senior Juiz de Fora that I had no right to make this demand, I should strictly comply with Lord Wellington's order. It was now for the Cabildo himself to come forward, and offer voluntarily and without payment the means of conveying these poor fellows one day's march, and to beg that I would accept of their kind-

ness. At all events although I was before ready to pay for the hire of the animals, now I was aware that it was against orders, I could not think of so great an impropriety. Everything was ready for us the next morning, and the owners of the cattle were instructed not to demand payment.

The officers were greatly amused at the gravity with which I conducted this delicate negociation, making the peasantry and their Juiz de Fora thank me for accepting their assistance. The latter, however, could not resist telling one of the officers with whom he had become acquainted, as we were moving off, "You say that English Major of yours is a 'Bom rapaz,' (meaning a good fellow), but for my part I suspect 'que nos tem mangado,'" (Anglice—that we have been quizzed and humbugged by him.)

We sent back at the end of the day's journey, which was a long one over bad roads, the transport we had brought from the village. I think they expected to be taken on further, and the drivers were therefore very glad to get away without being paid by us. The remainder of the march was easily accomplished.

Castro Marim is situate in a low, swampy savanna, and in the centre of the village. A rock crops out on which the castle is built. On

the opposite side of the river is the Spanish town of Azamonte, and lower down on the Portuguese side of the river is Villa Real, a town, the streets of which are regularly laid out with squares, &c., but none of the buildings or streets appear to have been finished. It was planned, I believe, by Portugal's greatest minister, the Marquis of Pambal, who expected from its position at the mouth of the Guadiana that it would have risen by its trade to become a place of some importance.

When I saw it, half the houses were without occupants. They export, however, from hence a considerable quantity of oranges, the finest that are grown in Portugal.

A great deal of excellent land along the banks of the Guadiana to the northward of Castro Marim remained uncultivated and occupied, and although the proprietorship is claimed by certain families, their title to it would not bear the test of inquiry if examined into, being principally grants made by Government on condition that the land should be reclaimed and cultivated, which conditions these families have not been in a condition to fulfil.

Here there would be an excellent field as I have often thought for the emigration of Roman

Catholic families, for in the days I am speaking of, no other sect of Christians would have been tolerated. Now that the country is more populated and the land occupied, it would not afford the same advantages it did then.

The principal street at Castro Marim runs round the foot of part of the Castle hill. The best houses we could get to hire were but very indifferent. The windows were not glazed, and the flooring was frequently of loose planks hastily placed on the beams and rafters. Mine was the most commodious house of the place, but was in an unfinished state like all the others.

I gave up one of the rooms for the officers to smoke in, read the newspaper, play at chess, backgammon, or voltarette, with wine and water as much they might require, the wine being exceedingly cheap; but they were not to intrude into any other part of the building.

I had my Oporto friend, Josè de Mello, the nephew of the President of the Oporto Wine Company, staying in the house with me.

It was very seldom that we could obtain butcher's meat, consequently we were with the exception of fish, of which there was a great abundance, dependent in a great measure on our guns for our dinners. Nearly the whole of the

officers being sportsmen, game soon became very scarce, and we were obliged to go to a great distance to get it.

I did very well in this miasmatic district so long as I was enabled to live generously and keep a good table; but want of exercise and poor diet soon made me succumb to fevers and ague, in common with the greater part of the officers and our servants. I used to tell them that it was the curse of the Knight of Malta, the Governor of Elvas, that was upon us. The servant which Mello's family had sent with him from Oporto, used to say it was witchcraft, and that he should be the first to die; the poor fellow (a great favourite with his master) was really very ill, and daily getting worse. He was quite certain that the sorceress, an old hag who lived in an adjoining hut, and with whom he had previously had some words, had bewitched him. The doctor declared that no medicine would do him good, and only one prescription would benefit him, which he was afraid that neither I or his master would permit him to use. I eagerly inquired what it was, when he informed me that the only remedy he could think of, would be to drag him out of bed, remove him to another, and give him a good caning. It was disease of the mind! The man was

daily wasting away, and would evidently in a few days give up the ghost unless some such remedy were adopted.

Neither his master or myself could agree to this novel medical treatment; but the day after this occurrence, the sick servant heard of a muleteer who had a charm which would cure him and destroy the spell of witchcraft. The man was sent for, got a good price, six crusados novos, for his prescription, and the sick man was healed, and in a few days able to do his ordinary work.

I could not help smiling at this occurrence afterwards, as he earnestly entreated me to take the same remedy, as it would certainly cure me, and his backing up his recommendation by saying he would gladly give me his prescription for nothing if I would only try it. I made him give the prescription without trying it, for it was a compound of nastiness, one of the ingredients, I well recollect, being nail parings boiled down, with other articles of similar efficacy. I excused myself on the score of being a heretic and without faith; unlike himself, who was a devout believer in charms, and a good Catholic.

I mentioned this charming cure some years afterwards to a Welsh lady, a second Mrs. Fry in philanthrophy. She told me she also possessed a

cure for ague which amongst the ignorant country people she found equally efficacious, and it was doubtful to her, whether she had acquired greater credit by her cures, or ill-will by keeping her prescription a secret, but as I was a particular favourite she would give it to me on the same terms. It was the snuff of a candle disguised with chalk taken in port wine, of course the smaller the quantity the better! She had obtained the prescription from a lady who really believed in its medicinal qualities; for her part, she relied on the belief of her patients in its efficacy, added to the confident manner with which she administered it. Had she divulged the secrets of its composition, it would have destroyed the mystery and weakened the cure.

After being here two or three months, I was enabled to send my Elvas creditor the balance due to him for the men's messing, and the money I had borrowed; and shortly afterwards the Lieut.-Colonel with his family joined us, equally surprised to find there had been no desertions, as had been anticipated by all our garrison acquaintances.

I only went once on a shooting excursion to the Spanish side of the Guadiana. We found the peasantry disposed to be very insolent and did

not therefore repeat our visit, neither did we find so much game as we expected.

I was sometimes free from ague for two or three weeks, but always had a relapse whilst I remained at Castro Marim.

About this time (1819 or 1820) I was ordered by the military authorities to proceed to Cadiz, to procure information and report to Lord Beresford the probable results of the events then taking place in Spain, where an attempt was being made to raise the populace, and establish a free constitution. Riego was then in La Ysla de Leon, besieged by the Royalist troops. My orders were not to compromise the government, by declaring myself favourable to either party, but to collect information and ascertain whether the populace took any interest in the attempt at revolution, and which side would be likely to prevail in the event of a struggle, should Riego make his escape from La Ysla. I only took one servant with me, and established myself with a family where a great number of persons used to assemble of every shade of political opinions. A fine young man, an Irishman, a Dominican Friar and the American Consul, with the ladies of the house, were liberals in their sentiments; whilst a young officer, a rejected lover of one of the ladies, and several em-

ployés of the Government were staunch supporters of the existing order of things; amongst these also was a Portuguese officer in the Spanish service, who used to frequent the house.

There was no lack of news. Queiroga and Riego at La Ysla published twice a week, their "Gazetta Patriotica" which I regularly received in duplicate, notwithstanding that all communication with them was interdicted.

The "Gazetta Patriotica" published occasionally some well written articles, but Spaniards are more eloquent and enthusiastic in their patriotic appeals, than disinterested and devoted to their country's cause.

I had a gun-boat at my disposal, and by this vessel my reports were forwarded to Portugal. I retained a duplicate of the "Gazetta Patriotica" and some years afterwards gave it to Lord Lindsay, subsequently known from his writings on the History of Christian Art, &c.

The principal difficulty I found in my mission, was not the paucity of intelligence given me by the different political parties in Cadiz, but to get at the truth or some approximation to it; for each party was desirous of making out the cause of their own friends in the most flattering and

glowing colours, and it was necessary to balance the conflicting statements.

Lord Beresford concurred with me in opinion that the liberal party would only prevail when it was too late. He then sailed for the Brazils in a great hurry, and when he returned to Lisbon the revolution had spread to Portugal, and he was not permitted to land. But I am anticipating events. I was directed to visit the Royal troops who were employed in the service of investing Quierogo's and Riego's insurgents in the Ysla de Leon, and I accordingly went to Chichana, Puerte St. Maria, and Xeres; General Juan de la Cruz Murgeon whom I had before known at the Candado de Nieble and at Seville, commanded the troops at Chiclana. I remained some time at Xeres in the house of a Spaniard, the Vice-Consul of Portugal, who was engaged in the wine trade. He had married a rich widow, and in his house was a fine collection of drawings by Pompeia Battoni, a few by Guercino and some excellent paintings by various masters, Italian and Spanish. His cellars and wine stores were immense, and I noticed one remarkable difference between the wines of Xeres and those of Oporto. As good wine of Xeres can be drank on the spot when bottled as any I have

ever tasted in England, whilst port wine to be drinkable requires home doctoring!

He accounted for this peculiarity by saying that the Xeres wine was the pure juice of the grape without any admixture of brandy (which I am however inclined to doubt), whilst the wine of Oporto was not drinkable without it.

He showed me a peculiarly pale sherry, which he called Amontillado, and of a peculiar flavour with which he said he used to flavour his other sherries. They never exported this wine to England excepting for Lord Spencer. But I find it is now very common in England, and may be had of most wine merchants, seldom however good or genuine.

The best horses in all Spain were formerly bred at Xeres. They were the property of the Carthusian Friars, and were distinguished by the mark of a convent bell, burnt on the hip.

The French before they left Andalusia took all the mares away with them. The breed therefore no longer exists with the Carthusians.

On returning to my quarters at Cadiz, I had more time to study the characters of the different people who visited the house. Nothing could exceed the venality of the officers of the Custom House. They took bribes in the most barefaced

and shameless manner, and innumerable were the stories I used to hear of the corruption in every branch of Civil Administration at Cadiz. The American Consul was a regular Yankee, a compound of personal and national vanity.. He had lost all his hair by the yellow fever, from which he had just recovered, and as he disdained wearing a wig, it was rather fortunate that he should be so enamoured of himself. The young ladies who visited the house thought so also.

Father Antonio, the Irish Monk, was a very superior person. He had arrived at Cadiz with another Irish youth, who was so disgusted with the monks of his convent that he entered the Spanish army, and his friend was very anxious to hear from him.

Father Antonio was handsome, young, and a talented preacher, soaring far above the rest of the fraternity of his convent. He boldly denounced their vicious practices whenever they fell under his observation, and in consequence he was much disliked by the brotherhood, and even hated by them as an intermeddler. Yet if ever there was a virtuous monk, this young man might be with justice termed one, and he was exposed to no ordinary temptations.

A priest with a fine person I have frequently

observed, is sure to command a numerous audience, particularly of females; and most ludicrous scenes of unrequited love frequently amused me in the house where I was staying, the chief actor being a distant relative of the family, a young married woman who constantly followed my friend, Father Antonio like his shadow, or rather I should say persecuted him wherever he went. Sometimes she would anticipate his arrival at my lodgings, when he was sure to be disconcerted and out of humour on seeing her. In the presence of the family we conversed in Spanish, and the poor priest would take that opportunity of extolling the virtues of English women in private life; praising the attention they paid their families by staying at home, evidently for the edification of the lady by whom he was persecuted. But a still richer scene took place one day, when the old lady of the house took the love-stricken dame to task by directly accusing her of the impropriety of her conduct in thus persecuting the good father to his evident annoyance.

Her reply was truly in character, "I always hear Father Antonio's mass, and what harm is there in looking at a handsome man? I am sure I mean no harm."

She was further expostulated with by the young

ladies, and I never saw her in the house afterwards.

I never heard what became of this young Irishman, but I received two or three letters from him on my return to Portugal.

The Royalist officer was equally unfortunate in his suit. The young lady talked politics instead of love, and she was too enthusiastic a Constitutionalist to listen to him.

At length, as I had anticipated, the opinions of the Constitutionalists prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the 20th of March was fixed upon as a day of public rejoicing for the proclamation of the Constitution by the authorities; but alas! instead of being a day of exultation and pride, it was stained by the most atrocious acts of treachery, murder and rapine, that ever disgraced a nation. At an early hour the streets were crowded with spectators in their holliday suits, to witness the spectacle which was to take place in the Square of St. Antonia, where scaffolding had been erected for the purpose by the municipality; but as the ceremony had not yet commenced, the crowd separated to promenade in the streets until the hour arrived. On this occasion I put on my Caçadore uniform, and went also to see the sight. Passing down the Calle de

los Mónejos with the Portuguese Vice-Consul, we were met by our friend the Portuguese officer in the Spanish service, who accosted us by saying, "You are both of you very smart this morning, where are you going?"

I replied, "We are walking the streets to kill time until the hour for the proclamation of the Constitution."

"Then I entreat you," he said, "to get back to your lodgings as quick as you can; things are about to take a different turn from what you imagine. The troops will prevent the proclamation, and are at this moment firing on the populace."

Knowing him to be a great croaker, I did not believe him at first, conceiving the firing to be on the occasion of the rejoicing, until he pointed out several of the inhabitants running towards us, pursued by a body of infantry, firing at them. We were fortunately close to the Portuguese Consulate, and here the Vice-Consul and myself took refuge and barricaded the street-door.

After informing the Consul of what was going on, we all went to the top of the house to observe passing events. The houses in Cadiz have flat roofs, and frequently communicate with each other on the same side of the street. We had not been

here long before a musket shot was fired which passed close by my ear, and stuck in the stucco of the wall. We could not see from whence it came, and I thought it was an accidental shot from the street, but another which passed also close to my head soon convinced us to the contrary, and that I was the object fired at.

The Consul therefore entreated me to go down and change my dress, which I did for that of a seaman.

The houses at Cadiz are exceedingly strong and difficult of access, unless with the consent of the inmates, the windows having all iron gratings like a prison, and the doors being very thick and strong. Taking post behind the trellis of one of the windows, I had an opportunity, without being observed, of seeing what was passing. Several of the inhabitants lay dead in the street beneath the window. These had been assassinated by a few straggling soldiers for the purpose of plunder, and the same armed party remained here at the junction of four streets, to rob all who passed. One word of remonstrance was sufficient to ensure the complainer's being bayonetted or shot.

Other groups of soldiers were firing ball into the key-holes to force back the bolts of the locks, in order to gain an entry into houses where they

expected to meet with booty or treasure; a watch-maker's shop came in for an unusual share of attention, but the door could not be forced. Other houses made a compromise with these lawless ruffians by throwing out bags of dollars.

Having ascertained that the house where we had taken refuge was not sufficiently provisioned to enable us to stand a siege, the Consul's wife having been confined a day or two before, and a fowl and two loaves being all they had in the larder, the Vice-Consul and myself determined towards evening on making an attempt to regain our lodgings, which were not very distant from each other. For this purpose we armed ourselves with a stiletto each, and selecting an opportunity when only a drunken soldier without a musket was left at the junction of the streets which we must necessarily pass, we sallied forth. I was determined if he attempted to stop us that he should be sacrificed, were it only as an act of retributive justice due to the manes of the dead by whom he was surrounded. The soldier accosted me with a request that I would give him a present, I replied that I had none to give him. He then said, "*bono, bono,* we will see if you have not a little dollar to give me," putting himself at the same time in my way.

Throwing back the breast of my jacket I immediately exposed the hilt of my dagger, of which, seeing I was disposed to make use, he turned deadly pale, crying out in his surprise, "Caramba que es esso?" ("What is that?") My companion ran up to me saying, "Oh! let the fellow alone, we have no time to lose;" and he was but too glad to let us pass.

We saw one or two patroles, whom we carefully avoided, as it may be supposed; and after dodging about the streets for some time, we at length reached our quarters.

The family did not know what had become of me, and were of course glad to see us back safe and well, although they themselves were in a great state of alarm.

My servant told me that he also was out when the troops commenced their attack upon the unprepared and defenceless inhabitants.

The military, he said, did not cry out, "Viva el Rey," or "Viva la Constitucion," but "Quien Viva," ("who lives;") which led the people into the trap of calling out what they conceived would be most agreeable to them, "Viva la Constitucion!" This was immediately replied to by a volley, and a number of the crowd having fallen

around him, he scampered home as fast as he could.

In this fatal day it is said that between five and six hundred inhabitants had been killed and found dead in the streets.

We kept very quiet the whole time they were acting this disgraceful part, but the second day we found ourselves rather hungry, ladies and all; and my servant having volunteered to go to a shop within sight to get us some bread and cheese and wine, we accepted his offer. The poor fellow came back with the necessary supplies, but with a very long face. He had encountered a patrole in a tap room, and they desired him to sit down. He unfortunately had on a waistcoat with large pendant, silver, fillagree buttons, which the corporal proposed to exchange for his own; my servant Jozé at first objected to the arrangement, the corporal's buttons being of brass and of very little value; but he was soon given to understand the expediency of the proposed barter, and hence his chagrin on his return.

The Royalist Lieutenant came the same day to inquire how the family had fared, and to inform them that "Il Pobre Don Tomaso," (by which name I was called) had perished, according to report, the preceding day, and to express his

regret at my untimely end. He was, therefore, not a little surprised to learn from his lady love that I was safe and in the house; and when I made my appearance, he recommended me to remain quiet and not stir out, for although I had not been guilty of any particular offence, the unruly soldiery might think otherwise.

I occasionally went to the top of the house to take a view of my gun-boat; but she was anchored too far out, or I should have been tempted to try to swim to her to escape the horrors by which I was surrounded.

After three or four days, tranquillity was again restored, and the people began to appear in the streets.

It was a corps of Guides and a Militia regiment that behaved the worst, the other corps only joined when they found the sack so profitable. The Constitution having afterwards been proclaimed, the corps of Guides was banished to Ayamento, but the Government was too weak to punish even the ringleaders.

During the whole of these transactions, and in fact at all times, the British Consul resided far from his post at Pueto St. Maria, leaving his charge to a Deputy.

Yet Cadiz was one of the most lucrative consulates in the gift of the British Government.

CHAPTER II.

Return to Portugal, and manner of evading the Quarantine regulations—Ordered on a Tour of Inspection—Description of the Province of Algarve and its productions—Revolution in Portugal—Conduct of Colonel Williams of the Caçadores—Ordered to Lisbon prior to leaving the service—Interview with the Duke of York—Sir Herbert Taylor—Life at home—Instance of two reformed Rakes making excellent Clergymen—Fox-hunting—Influence in Family matters—A Visit to Paris—Studio of a French Artist—National vanity of the young Students, and their ignorance of their own Country's History—English Women and English engravings—Progress in Miniature Painting—Visit to a French Officer—Family of the Garde-du-Corps—Appointment to the 80th Regiment stationed at Malta—A Campaign at the Horse-Guards.

HAVING sent off by my gun-boat a report of these occurrences, on its return I was instructed to proceed to Portugal, and a letter from the Governor of Algarve communicated his regret that it would be necessary to put me in quarantine, but that every accommodation had been prepared for me on an island opposite Faro, the head-quarters of the province.

Although the yellow fever had ceased its ravages a month or six weeks before I had sailed

from Cadiz, yet the authorities at Lisbon had thought proper to continue the quarantine after the communication had been opened with every other port in Spain.

I determined to evade it, at the same time to show them the folly of such regulations, which permitted me to do so without infringing the laws. I therefore again dispatched my gun-boat, and took my passage in a small country boat going to Ayamento. Here I landed, immediately opposite the quarters of my regiment, with the river Guadiana separating us; and after partaking of some refreshment I passed over in the ferry-boat to Castro Marim. No one asked me any questions. Having passed the night in my quarters, I mounted my horse early in the following morning and rode over to Faro to report myself to the Governor of the Province, Brigadier General Austin. The family were at breakfast, and when I entered the room, were not a little snrprised to see me.

I told them not to be alarmed, my last dispatch was not from the city of plagues, but from Ayamento, and much as I appreciated the Governor's kindness in the arrangements he had made for me on the island—I thought joining my battalion at once, when it could be done without

infringing the quarantine regulations, to be better than being shut up by myself for so long a period.

The Governor was rather glad than otherwise, as he could now show the Government the folly of continuing a system of quarantine so useless, and which could be so easily evaded.

When I sent in my accounts, the Portuguese Government were satisfied with them. I had adapted a new method of keeping accounts, a negative one, by setting down the whole sum I had expended, and deducting from it my pay as Major for the period I was employed, marking only a few items of greater expenditure. I neither claimed nor did they offer me any personal remuneration. My disinterestedness was little appreciated. Voluntary services of this kind are seldom valued, and sometimes forgotten; and Lord Beresford thought no more of this matter on his return to Portugal, not having chosen to profit by the opinion I gave of the probable result of the insurrection.

Shortly after rejoining my battalion at Castro Marim, I was ordered on a tour of inspection. In the province of Algarve, all registered seamen are exempt from enlistment as soldiers. It was I think every third year that the old and unserviceable men were struck off the muster rolls, to

be replaced by others younger and more efficient, who in their turn were also exempt from being recruited for the army. In a country so thinly populated, this seemed an excellent arrangement in order to preserve a sufficient number of seamen for the fisheries, and for the supply of the navy, the best sailors being obtainable from this province.

These men were stationed along the coast in different towns; at Tavira, Olhão, Faro, Albafeira, and Lagos. It took me two or three days at each of these stations to inspect and recommend some for discharge, and to take others on the strength to replace them.

I found the trip a very pleasant one. The Capitão Mores (head captains and principal men of villages) received me very kindly, and the province itself near the coast is one of the richest and most beautiful districts in Portugal. Its exports are cork, dried figs, (surpassed only by those of Smyrna) almonds, tunny fish cured, and sardines, the produce of its fisheries with wines, chesnuts, olives and honey.

The whole coast for four or five miles inland seemed as a garden, backed by high mountains, which I presume produce an immense quantity of cork for exportation.

The natural history of the fig of commerce and the mode of cultivation, are very singular. The existence of sexes of plants is peculiarly striking in the fig tree. In our garden, every solitary fig tree is hermaphroditical, but the fig of commerce is grown only on the female tree; male plants are required in its vicinity or the fruit will not ripen to perfection.

The male plants produce fruit but never come to perfection. They burst early and a small fly, like a gnat, alights upon them and carries off the pollen wherewith to impregnate the fruit of the other trees.

I think they generally have one of these barren trees to every ten or perhaps twenty productive ones, and the *Figo de toque*, or impregnated fruit may in general be distinguished by a circular horny substance at the crown of the fruit.

This scaly or horny substance will frequently be observed also on the Smyrna fig when dried. It sometimes happens that there is a paucity of male trees, or that the male tree dies. The fruit of the male fig is then brought from a distance, strung as beads, and suspended from the branches of a female tree. When these figs burst, as before observed, the fly issues forth to perform the office assigned to it.

At first I thought them to be amulets or charms until I received this explanation.

A great quantity of pears and apples are a dried in these districts for exportation. The fr is exposed on the roofs of the houses to the su rays, and as they become soft they are flatten between the hands and turned.

I observed also a great number of almond tre some having on them the fruit of the precedi year. These were generally the bitter almond, which more were grown than were required f exportation.

The two infantry regiments of the Algar brigade were stationed at Lagos and at Tavera. O was commanded by Colonel Sir Dudley Hill, a the other by Sir Edward Quinton Williams. Bc these officers were serving in India with comman as Major-Generals, when I was in that count twenty-eight years subsequently. In Hill's re ment was one English captain, and in Willian an English major and captain. Williams co manded the brigade.

Shortly after my return to Castro Marim fr this tour of inspection, we heard that the revo tion had broken out at Oporto, and that it w spreading throughout the army.

The populace, in the first instance, had nothi

to do with it. A Colonel of Artillery and another field-officer, public defaulters to some amount, and who expected to be called to account, on the return of Marshal Lord Beresford, turned patriots and were the first to raise the standard of revolt. From Oporto, emissaries were dispatched to the different regiments throughout the kingdom. They formed a strong party in the regiment of Tavira, principally I believe through the agency of a Captain C——, of the regiment, a half Englishman, born at Oporto; in the other two regiments the revolution made little progress.

In the Caçadore battalion I suspected only one captain, our principal shot with whom I had the match, but he was nervous and did not do much to prosecute his designs whatever they were. Forjas, the Secretary of the Regency, and the Regency itself at first fanned the flame, conceiving it to be a movement of the army in order to get rid of the British officers, and obtain further promotion. They accordingly required the attendance at Lisbon of all those whom they considered, from being heads of regiments, to have any influence with the soldiery. But before this, some extraordinary occurrences took place particularly at Tavira, where there was at the head of the corps an intrepid and brave soldier, but who was wanting in that

tact for intrigue which is essential in treating with foreigners, in order to arrive at, and disconcert their machinations.

Finding the outbreak general throughout the army, I wrote to the Brigadier commanding the Province, for instructions how to act in the emergency. His answer was that he had received no instructions himself, and as there were in the country British officers senior to him, until I received their orders he left me entirely to my own discretion. I then waited on Lieut.-Colonel Antonia Pinto to request that he would permit me to appear in plain clothes and dispense with my doing further duty; as a foreigner, I felt the impropriety of interfering in the politics of the country, and I therefore thought it best at once to act on this determination. At first he refused, telling me that I was abandoning him at the most critical moment, but at length he acceded to my request. I then wrote again to the officer commanding the Province, informing him of what I had done, and I received from him the following answer,

"Faro, September 25th.

"My dear Major,

"I had the pleasure to receive your note of the 23rd. Your sentiments about retiring from this

service are I hope the sentiments of every Englishman in it, for I trust there is not one so sordid as to wish to hold his commission under existing circumstances. I gave up the government of this Province yesterday, as you see by my General Order, and am preparing to quit it with all possible dispatch, having this day solicited leave so to do from the Government in Lisbon; as considering the peculiar circumstances of my situation here, I think I ought not to go away without leave, and particularly as I am recognized by that Government on its installation, and am in correspondence with it.

"I wish you a pleasant journey to Lisbon, and every success in life, in which Mrs. Austin joins,

"I am, my dear Major,

"Ever truly yours,

JOHN AUSTIN."

At Tavira, however, the place was very unsettled, emissaries from Oporto had been tampering with both officers and men of the infantry regiment at the station, and Colonel Williams was obliged every morning to send before daylight two orderly sergeants to pull down and bring to him placards which had been posted up the preceding night. Their purport was generally to request

him to give up the command of the Brigade and regiment, and sometimes they contained threats, in the event of the wishes of the people, (that is, the emissaries) not being complied with.

But Williams was not to be intimidated. He was an athletic powerful man, supposed to sleep with loaded pistols under his pillow, and it would be an awkward thing to attempt to arrest him. One of our escorts of the Caçadore Battalion returning from Faro with the men's pay, was accosted by some of the men of the Tavira regiment, and told that they must send away their English Major, meaning myself. The Caçadores were silent, when the others again told them that if they did not, they would come and see it done themselves. The Corporal of the party then told them, jauntily, that he would advise them to think twice before they attempted such a thing. These two corps hated each other. The Caçadore Battalion which Williams had formerly commanded during the war, looking with contempt upon the Infantry regiment, who were however thrice their number. A Captain P— and his wife, got alarmed at the state the men were in, and left Tavira and his regiment to place himself under the protection of the Battalion of Caçadores.

Our Lieut.-Colonel also got a little alarmed,

and sent for me to advise him how to act in this emergency. I at first told him that it was the very thing I wished to avoid, when I applied to be relieved from doing duty with the corps. On his becoming more urgent and nearly in tears, I said to him, "If you think the insurrection is merely got up by some disaffected military at Oporto, for their own purposes, and that the voice of the nation has neither been consulted or heard, it is your duty to oppose its progress should you receive orders to that effect. If, on the contrary, you think the cause is a national one, as a Patriot you ought not hastily to obstruct it." This advice called forth fresh lamentations. He had, he said, a wife and children, and all he wanted was peace and safety. To obtain which I told him depended entirely on his own energy, and if he thought to humour all, he would soon find himself at war with all.

I recommended him to keep his officers and men employed with parades, to discountenance emissaries and political discussions, to have an eye upon the captain I have mentioned, and if he found him mixing with the non-commissioned officers and men more than usual, to snub him, and if that would not do, to put him under arrest. But there was no occasion for this last

piece of advice, for the Captain with every disposition for mischief, was as timid a creature as himself.

He followed this advice, and never did a battalion behave better. The Algarve Brigade was the last to send in their adhesion to the new Government when it was established; but not one of three corps ever moved from their quarters, excepting the Caçadores when ordered by myself under very singular circumstauces.

Colonel Williams wrote to me from Tavira, saying that his regiment had been a good deal tampered with, and that he had just learned that there were steps taking to cause a meeting in the corps, and which was to take place the following morning. He could not be mistaken in his information; and he, therefore, begged of me again to put myself at the head of his old friends the Caçadores, if I thought I could rely upon them, and march against his regiment, and which, from all he heard, he thought I could do. I was, however, to try and prevail upon the Lieut.-Colonel to come with us, but if he could not be prevailed upon, then I was to assume the command, and after supplying the men with sufficient ball cartridge to commence my march the following morning at day-break. The Lieut.-Colonel, as I expected, wavered; but at length said he would

come, and he left me to make the required arrangements.

I ordered in his name the battalion to parade at day-break the following morning without their knapsacks, but with their ball ammunition in their pouches.

The men were surprised at seeing me again amongst them, but as soldiers are fond of excitement they appeared in great spirits, thinking that some mischief was in contemplation.

As the Lieut.-Colonel did not make his appearance, I at once opened the business by telling the officers and men that I had received certain information that their late commander, under whom they had fought and gained so much reputation, was to be seized and perhaps murdered by a faction at Tavira.

"You will not I am sure suffer any indignity to be put upon him, or a hair of his head to be touched; and if these are your sentiments, then follow me."

The proposition was received with a screech of approbation; and as we marched past the Lieut.-Colonel's quarters, seeing the enthusiasm of the battalion, he joined us.

When within about a mile and half of Tavira we were met by the Adjutant, who had been sent

by Williams to counter-order our advance. The Colonel was safe and the riot was quelled, and after receiving the Colonel's thanks we were to return to our quarters.

Williams had been in great peril, but he saved himself with remarkable courage and address. Some bad rations had been purposely issued to two companies of his regiment, and the men, instead of making their complaints in the usual way, were proceeding in a tumultuous manner to the Colonel's quarters at the instigation of some of their officers. The moment Williams heard this, he ordered his bugler to sound the assembly, and the whole regiment to get under arms. He then himself appeared at its head, to the great dismay of the conspirators.

Having formed the regiment into a square, he addressed the two companies who had the complaint to prefer, pointing out how unusual a course they had taken to obtain redress; at the same time, he said, that the persons who had instigated them to this excess were only to blame, those persons having created the cause of complaint in order to produce this excitement, of which plan he had notice the previous day. He then turned round to some of the officers, who he knew were at the bottom of the whole proceeding, and told them

that the different notices and threats which they had taken the trouble to post every night had been brought to him, and he had read their warnings that he should resign the command of the regiment, but he disregarded *them* and *their threats*. He had received the command from the King of Portugal's Government, to whom only would he resign it when he saw a fitting occasion; but no attempt at intimidating him should have any effect, without the command of the Government. He would not abandon his post but with his life. Taking off his sword and belt he threw them on the ground in the square, saying to the men:

"Now you may assassinate your Colonel, if you think he is not worthy to command you, but you will never intimidate him."

This was received with loud "Vivas." The men were enthusiastic at his conduct, and the officers shrank back, confounded at the proof they had witnessed of the power of one man over a multitude, and which high courage and gallantry never fail to produce.

Williams then told the men that their conduct had been what he had expected from them; but to their officers who had so misconducted themselves, he wished to point out the risk they had

incurred, and calling the Adjutant he sent him to halt the Caçadore battalion in march against them, and now at hand, and to direct their return to Castro Marim.

A few days afterwards, Williams was called to Lisbon by the Government, who foolishly imagined they could at any time stop the further progress of the revolution they had at first encouraged; but they soon found their mistake. When the Oporto and Lisbon juntas united, they dissolved the old Government and new men took their places.

On the two juntas coalescing, as a last friendly act, I penned a letter for the Lieutenant-Colonel to the new Government, reporting the steady discipline and undeviating course the Battalion had pursued, and its present state of efficiency, with its adhesion to the constituted Government and authorities.

The next day I left Castro Marim for Lisbon, according to orders received; but by this time Lieutenant-Colonel Pinto had discovered that some of his wife's relations had obtained appointments in the new Government, and he seemed now to regret that he had not mixed in the turmoil of past events, for which, however, he had neither courage or capacity. When I asked his

permission to take a soldier for my servant with me, he actually at first refused to let him accompany me, assigning as a reason that he was afraid he would be considered too friendly to the English nation, although he was kindly disposed towards myself. To be angry at his contemptible conduct would have been absurd, and the officers joining in the laugh against him, he told me I might take the man although he was afraid he was doing wrong.

It is a singular circumstance that the same vacillating conduct occasioned him to change sides in the war between Don Pedro and Don Miguel, and by one of these parties he was taken and executed before Oporto.

Having disposed of my effects, and presented the Governor of Castro Marim, an old man of eighty, with a splendid map of Portugal by Lopes which pleased him greatly, I took a passage in a small Genoese boat from Lisbon.

Our party consisted of refugees from Spain, (according to their own account, for political opinions) and a Spanish artist with his wife and daughter, seeking employment at Lisbon. The wife and daughter were of the same age, and from their style of conversation with their countrymen, the refugees, I did not form a very exalted

opinion of their propriety of conduct. The artist, poor hen-pecked man, sat quietly listening as he smoked his cigar, and never hazarded more than a look of disapprobation.

I never ventured below, but always slept and staid on deck, my fellow travellers not seeming over cleanly; however they appeared very jovial and happy, amusing themselves with singing, playing the guitar, and telling stories, in which the ladies joined. Some of them were tolerable performers with good voices.

We landed at Belem where I separated from my companions, and the following day the 'Standard' line of battle ship entered the river, with Marshal Beresford on board, and treasure for the Government.

The Marshal was not allowed to go on shore, and some discussion took place about landing the treasure for the use of the obtrusive Government, but a meeting of merchants convened by the captain of the man-of-war decided in his favour.

On this occasion, I am told, a very rich scene took place in the Chamber of Deputies, where the matter was also debated.

The Portuguese commander of a very fine frigate laying in the harbour, was declaiming with great vehemence on the indignity and dis-

respect offered to the Government, by delaying even for a moment the landing of the money sent for their use from Rio Janeiro. During his speech he worked himself up almost into a state of frenzy, and as a peroration exclaimed, "Why suffer this treatment? let orders be given to cease negotiating, and send at once and take it by force. Should any resistance be offered, I would recommend the seizure and capture of the vessel, the captain of which, by the advice of Marshal Beresford, has acted with so much contumely towards the Government."

A leading member of the Government then rose to second the motion. He was a good speaker, and a man of some note, but at this distance of time I forget his name. He said the Chamber ought to be greatly indebted to the gallant Captain for bringing forward his proposition, and they would agree with him that no person could be more safely trusted with its execution than the gallant officer by whom it had been proposed. It was true it would be attended with some danger, if credence were to be given to what they had all seen and heard of British seamen, but this would only serve to advance the merit of the enterprise, and the glory of the gallant officer whom he proposed should conduct it.

Of course all this was said in the most cruel irony, for the commander of the frigate, although a young man of good family, was known to be a most arrant coward and coxcomb, and also to be totally ignorant of his profession.

He was overwhelmed with shame, and the more he stammered out excuses, the more the House roared with laughter at his egregious folly and impudence.

Sir Archibald Campbell and several other officers were now at Lisbon, preparing to leave the country; and, having humanized myself by cutting off my moustachios, worn in the Portuguese service only by Caçadores, Grenadiers, and the Cavalry, a few days more sufficed to make my arrangements, and I quitted Lisbon for England about the close of the year 1820.

Thus ended my career in the Portuguese army, in which I had served upwards of eleven years, taking back with me to my own country nothing but the ague, with which I had been stricken the year before at Castro Marim.

Our agreement with the King of Portugal on remaining in his service after the war, was that we were to have the same retiring allowance as officers, his own subjects. I forget the scale for length of service, but I believe that those who

had served twenty years, might retire if they chose on an allowance nearly equal to their full pay. Of course at the period of the revolution, none of us had served more than eleven or twelve years, consequently we could not be entitled to their retirement pay excepting as a special favour.

On this occasion, however, the Portuguese Government, I will do them the justice to say, behaved nobly and generously. They allowed us to count as service in their army, the period we had been in our own service previous to entering theirs, but of course the reward fell to the lot of those with few exceptions, who had rendered the Portuguese the least service. Those of our own officers, whose duty it was to require a more equitable distribution of the funds, remained satisfied and contented when they found that they themselves had absorbed the whole. All those officers, who like myself had not been twenty years in the army, but who had served the Portuguese nation during the whole of the campaigns, received nothing, whilst an officer, an old captain on half pay, who had entered the service of the King of Portugal after the war was over, with more than twenty years service at home, was promoted first to the rank of major, and then to that of colonel, and was, on retiring again from the Portuguese

service, entitled to and received his full pay for life in that rank. But the injustice did not end here. The two senior captains employed with the Portuguese army were to receive the rank of Brevet major. Of course this same individual who had been so long on half pay at home, received that step of promotion also; for, since his recent appointment to the Portuguese army, he found himself the senior on the list of that rank of British officers.

I am aware that this story will appear incredible to many. Such an absorption of what belongs to others of both pay and promotion, requires a degree of want of modesty, and a degree of selfishness of which I do not think the officer alluded to would have been guilty, had he not been driven on and aided by those who had the power of doing this injustice.

My father was now again married, and living on his property in Berkshire, my sister was grown up to be a woman, and was much admired—my brother was at Winchester College.

With my father, I proposed spending a few months, in order to look about me and decide upon my further course, for my half pay as captain would be very insufficient to support me, and I was too fidgetty to remain long at home, particu-

larly in a solitary country house, at a distance from any town and where I scarcely knew any body.

My voyage was not a tedious, or a long one, and on my arrival in England I immediately proceeded to town, to report myself and attend the first levées of the Commander-in-Chief and the Military Secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor.

I had nothing to ask them for, but I wished to have my time afterwards at my own disposal. On my arrival in town, I lost no time in reporting myself at the Horse Guards and attending the Levées of the Duke of York. Very few of the Anglo-Portuguese officers I found had returned to England before me. I was received very graciously by His Royal Highness, and as I wanted nothing I merely made my bow, saying I had come to pay my respects and to report my arrival from Portugal on leaving that service. I was going to retire, thinking I had acquitted myself very well, never having attended a Levée before, when the Duke inquired if I was in a hurry? On my replying in the negative, he said "Then stay a little, I want to have some conversation with you." I was getting very nervous, and inwardly wished him and his conversation at Jericho, but his good-humoured countenance and affable manners soon

restored my wonted confidence. He asked me a great number of questions such as, what part of Portugal I served in when the revolution broke out? How the men behaved towards the British officers? If their new officers were intelligent and likely to keep up the discipline without us? and as to the condition of the army generally? He seemed satisfied with my replies, and remarked how much the government was pleased with our conduct. Without instructions to guide us, we had left the government unfettered to act as Ministers might think fit, whilst if we had taken an active part we should have involved them in responsibilities and difficulties. He finished by asking me if I wanted employment, to which I replied, my services were at the disposal of his Royal Highness if they were required, otherwise I should prefer visiting my family.

I have since had several audiences at the Horse Guards, but this was the longest of all.

I afterwards attended the Levée of Sir Herbert Taylor, the Military Secretary, but here the questions put to me were of a different nature. "We are going to fill up vacancies in the Anglo-Portuguese officers, and to promote two captains to the British rank of major. We are rather surprised at the two whose names have been

submitted. Do you know, Sir H. Bridges, and Captain Haddock?" I replied I knew Captain Haddock to be an excellent and deserving officer. "But what claim Sir H. Bridges can have for his services in the Portuguese army, we are at a loss to make out. Do you know any thing about them?" I replied that I had not the honour of knowing him. He then said, "I see you are an old officer yourself, and don't like to say anything about him. Very right, very right. Do you want employment? Can I do anything for you?" I told him, as I had before said to the Duke of York, that my services were at the disposal of the Government should they be required, but as I had not seen my relatives for some years, I should wish to visit them before coming to any determination.

The truth was, I did not like the idea of joining an English regiment as junior Captain, perhaps to serve in India, and I therefore wished to look about me, to see if I could not turn my time to more advantage than by remaining in the army. On the breaking out of the revolution in Portugal, I had attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in that army, in the promotion brought from Rio Janeiro by the Marshal; at least so I was informed.

I was now thirty years of age, and to be posted at the bottom of the list of captains was more than I could at first well digest, so it was natural enough that I should wish to try a new career, imagining as I then did, that I had neither interest, or money to get myself forward in the British army.

On my father's property, in Berkshire, I got tolerably good shooting, but he saw very little company, and his residence being distant from any town, I found the place at first very dull. I think in those days that county families had a horror of a class of unfortunate beings, they were pleased to term Itinerant half-pay officers, thinking, I suppose, we should be on the look out for their daughters, to try and mend our fortunes, or that we should poach upon their preserves.

A very nice family, on visiting terms with my father, resided about two miles from us. After I had been at home about three months, the father called upon me, leaving his card, and asking me to dinner. I was by no means disposed to hold myself so cheap, so notwithstanding my sister's remonstrances, I declined the invitation and returned the call three months afterwards.

When we became acquainted I was sorry for my previous neglect. I found them hospitable

and kind. The family consisted of the clergyman and his lady, and two sons of nearly my own age, destined for the church, agreeable sporting companions, with three or four young ladies, great friends of my sister, the Clergyman's daughters.

At a greater distance I also formed the acquaintance of several other families, but those who had connections in the army, I found the most hospitable.

Colonel B——, a friend of my father's residing in Hampshire, I used frequently to go and stay with for a day or two. The curate of his Parish (a first rate preacher) had previously been in the army, and must have served in the Peninsular war; but Colonel B—— could not make him out, and he asked me if I recollected meeting with a person in that army of the name of D—. I said, I could only recollect one of that name, a commissary, a jolly dog, up to all sorts of fun, a great bolero dancer, guitar player, &c., &c., to the neglect sometimes of the more important duties of his profession, therefore it could not be him, his friend being known, as one of the most exemplary clergymen in the country. However to make sure that it was not the sinner, turned saint, I told the Colonel to ask him whether he had ever

met with a person of my name. I received a note a day or two afterwards from D—, begging I would call and see him. I did so, and it did my heart good to see an old soldier, although a commissary, so comfortably housed on changing his cloth.

He was considered, with all his faults, a very clever, kind-hearted fellow, so I at once commenced by asking him how he had contrived to escape the wreck of Commissaries, which took place after the Peninsular war? It seems, however, he did not escape, for he had also got into a mess. "You," he said, "who knew me so well, can easily imagine that my accounts were not in a better state than those of my neighbours, and also that my private means barely sufficed to meet my expenses, but with all this I was a great personage amongst the Spaniards, (he would have said amongst the Spanish ladies, but his wife was in the room) and having many correspondents amongst them, I had no difficulty in getting vouchers for my accounts, and they were on the point of being passed and approved, which had occurred to very few, when a young lad, a new clerk in the examiners' officers, putting the paper against the light, discovered that the receipt had been given, as would appear by the water mark,

prior to the paper being manufactured. I was arrested, but when they discovered that I had not a farthing to live upon, beyond my pay, I was released as a person not worth keeping." He was surprised that I had not heard before of his mishap, he added, "In the meantime, I had the good fortune to meet with this, my little treasure of a wife, whose good opinion I value more than that of the treasury, and you see me here, blessed with my family around me, and much more happy than when in the midst of all the gaieties and dissipations of Cadiz."

But I did not think his "treasure of a wife" approved his meeting with old military acquaintances; she seemed to think that he took more pleasure in talking over old times than he ought to do, and appeared very fidgetty the whole time I was there, and glad when I took my departure. He had with him two youths, sons of a nobleman, to educate, and from his household establishment I should say they were in easy circumstances.

I have since learnt that he still retains his celebrity as a preacher, and exemplary clergyman, and that he has obtained a preferment which has taken him from Colonel B.'s neighbourhood.

Reformed rakes frequently make the best of parsons, at least I am inclined to think favourably

of them. The eldest of the two brothers in our neighbourhood, who was also my shooting companion, had been rather wild at college, took orders, and from that day I saw little or nothing of him. From the partiality of a near relative, he became possessed of a very large property, to the total exclusion of the rest of the family. Until then I was disposed to think harshly of his eccentricities, and what I conceived to be his hypocrisy. The living he took at his father's death was a very poor one; yet he divided his private property between his mother, sisters, brother, and himself. Here was no pretension. This amiable man acted at all events up to his own doctrines, and although I lost his society, I cannot but think well of him.

My step-mother was another of those benevolent characters, who are never happy unless they are doing good, and visiting the neighbouring cottages. We in reality have many of these Sisters of Charity in England, although they are not distinguished by any peculiarity of dress, or by silly vows, which distinguish those to whom the name more particularly applies.

She was often duped, but still persevered with her Sunday school, her Church Missionary societies, and her subscriptions. She was also a most

sturdy beggar, and would not be denied whenever she solicited alms to aid her in her charities.

I used to tell her sometimes that I would give her the benefit of my knowledge and experience, and which I could better afford to bestow than my cash. This was at a later period of our acquaintance, after I had again entered the British service. I told her, in the course of my perambulations in the Mediterranean, and from what I had heard from others who had visited several of our colonies, very few of them, or at least few towns of note, had any churches at all of the Established religion. This she would not believe, as she knew large subscriptions had been made for the purpose of endowing them as well by private individuals as by Government.

Now the good old body was a staunch supporter of the Established Church, and when I told her that lots of Dissenting places of worship of every denomination had sprung up to supersede the others, and probably had been built with the funds of herself and other members of her church, she was incredulity itself. I then instanced Gibraltar, Malta, and the Ionian Islands. Service was performed in the Government House at Gibraltar, the Church of England having risen little above its foundation. At Malta, service was

performed on a drum head to the troops, and at a later period in a bonded warehouse.

The church near Ball's monument was scarcely commenced, and the other islands were in the same condition.

The number of Dissenter's chapels everywhere visible, might lead to dissension with other sects, and I much doubted whether it would give the Maltese and native population a very favourable opinion of our Christian love and charity towards each other.

Finally I told the old lady my opinion frankly, by remarking on the amount of humbug in the world. Men trade in religion as in every thing else for a livelihood, and seldom become bankrupts, thanks to the credulity of ladies and elderly gentlemen. Never bestow your charity where you cannot see its effects, and leave all the idle tales you hear of conversions in Egypt, Syria and India, to those on the spot. In India, in particular, the European population is so numerous that they can watch over the proceedings of those they employ, and they are equally willing and far more able to supply the necessary funds than we are in Europe. Until there is free intercourse between the different races and sects in India, and our habits and languages become more assimilated,

none but the outcasts of society will adopt our religion. Generally speaking, harsh as the term may seem, a christianized Indian, means an idle, drunken vagabond.

The morning after this conversation, my father came into the breakfast room at rather an earlier hour than usual. It was plain that he wanted to read me a lecture, but he went rather awkwardly to work, not being in the habit of so doing. He generally addressed me as Major, but this morning, as he always did when anything annoyed him, it was, "Master Tom, I believe you are little better than an infidel."

"Indeed, Sir," I replied, "I see Mrs. B. has been talking to you, but I should be very sorry if either of you had any grounds for such an opinion," but here my sister came into the room, and the conversation dropped. It was evidently a great relief for him, for he would sooner cut off a finger than say anything to offend me.

It was well known that I possessed more influence over him than anyone of the family, and it was at times rather fortunate, for he sometimes required a good deal of management.

It was astonishing how very much he was annoyed if ever I was addressed by letter or otherwise, as Captain Bunbury. It was to no purpose

that I told him I was nothing else. He said it made him look foolish amongst his neighbours, and he even begged I would write to my friends to address me always as Major, if not as Lieut.-Colonel, to which rank he said he had heard I was entitled.

I used to have also my little quarrels with my sister, and generally over the pianoforte, when I accompanied her on the flute. She had great execution, but sometimes I would accuse her of playing out of time, when she would accuse me of being in fault more than herself, the truth probably was, that we were equally wrong.

To please my father, I sometimes went out fox hunting. Although I was well mounted, I thought it but poor sport, going from cover to cover on a cold winter morning, in the drizzling rain. Our neighbourhood was what is termed a close country, so that if we found, we seldom got the fox to break away; I greatly preferred a day's shooting. However, with all my prejudices on this head, I must confess on one or two occasions I enjoyed myself greatly. There is something so exhilarating in seeing dogs, horses and men, all in joyous movement, when Reynard breaks away, that I could not always escape the contagion.

When a child, as my father used to tell me, I

had been a bold and good rider, and he was much surprised at the apathy with which I regarded this manly sport, now that I was older. The fact was, that I felt some innate sentiment which told me that I could no longer ride across a country; but so inspiring was the cry of the hounds in full chorus, with the animated sight of horses and men, that I on one of the occasions alluded to, quite forgot myself, and that I could not ride; but giving my horse the reins, I soon took the lead of the whole field, taking some most tremendous leaps. The horse was in consequence exceedingly admired, and he was sold by my father in the field for a price he little expected to get for him, for although a fine animal, he was a most vicious brute.

On a previous occasion I rode the same horse, but he threw me. I had taken the lead, carried away by my animal spirits, in much the same way as already related; but a butcher on a cob contrived to cut in before me, and I at length came up with him, just as he was going through a gate which he banged in my face, in order that I mi g not get before him. To attempt to open it on the beast I rode, was out of the question, I put him at the hedge row, when he ran me near the gate post, and afraid of having my shin

grazed, I raised my leg so high, that on his alighting, over I went. I held the reins, but it was more than half an hour before the brute would let me mount him again, so that I was passed by the whole field.

Occasionally I went up to town for a few days. The old gentleman was never pleased when I made these excursions, although they cost him nothing; and on my return I was saluted by my step-mother (when she had not sent for me expressly to join with her and my sister in carrying some point regarding a measure of household expenditure) with such expressions as these, "Well, Major, I suppose we are indebted for the pleasure of this visit to a falling off of the ways and means."

An old maid, a friend of hers, who was frequently staying with her (but who insisted upon being called Mrs. instead of Miss, saying she had taken the Brevet some years before) would reply, "Oh no, I know a great number of these creatures they call 'Itinerant half-pay officers,' but never knew one of them that had not the same vagabond propensities," but they were all in reality glad to see me home again.

My father's unfortunate chancery suit and the lawyers were always uppermost in his mind, yet to the lawyers went all the money he could lay

his hands on. If any alteration in the house, any extra building was required involving a demand upon his purse, he would stand out manfully against it, until I came up to reinforce the besiegers with my opinion of the reasonableness of the request. He then generally gave way, but would afterwards reproach me, saying, "you always side with the women, against me!"

This hunting after an *ignus fatuus*, with a pack of lawyers at his heels, was his great failing; in other respects he was always kind, sacrificing his time and pursuits, to our enjoyment, and to my sister in particular, by attending her to any county or other balls whenever she wished to go.

On several occasions I went with them, and on one in particular, when I thought he was carrying his indulgence too far.

She was a great invalid, and at that time was really very ill, I even expostulated with him privately, telling him how wrong it was to take her such a distance, and in such a state, from home. "Quite the contrary," he said, "you will see it will do her good. We live so retired, she requires occasional excitement, and on that account I allow her to go." I think there was not a single dance, she did not join in that evening, and when I expected to hear the following morning that she

was dead, behold, she was in better health than she had been for some months previously.

The ball was held in the school-room of the celebrated Doctor Valpy. After supper his health was drank, when he returned thanks. The Doctor might be for all I know to the contrary a very learned pundit, but he was certainly a very poor orator.

Having now been about twelve months in England, and being possessed of a few pounds sterling which I had received from Lisbon on account of arrears of pay due to me on leaving the Portuguese service, I determined to visit Paris and then decide on the profession I meant to follow, and also to perfect myself in the French language. I knew no one in Paris, with the exception of an uncle retired from the service, and who was living with his family in the Chaussée d'Antin. Here I had a place at his table always at my disposal, but his residence was so distant from that part of Paris where I had taken up my abode, that I seldom availed myself of it, but commenced at once and in earnest to study painting and the Fine Arts. Chance took me to the studio of an artist in the Palais Royal, a miniature painter of the name of Mansion.

The academy was under the direction of a

German, who painted the draperies and backgrounds to Mansion's portraits, and I believe the profits of the academy were divided between them.

The German was a man of general information, and an excellent artist, but Mansion told me privately, that he was addicted to the bottle so much that he would never give him a fixed salary, but made him presents according to the quality of his work, which, after a night's debauch, was sometimes very inferior. I think he had five or six pupils besides myself, and one of the young men, by a tacit agreement, was to read aloud to us in rotation, from which I was exempted as a matter of course.

Sir Walter Scott's novels were in great favour with them, and the French translations as they came out, amused me greatly at the absurdity of the literal translations, being as unintelligible to them, as it was to me; particularly when any local description of the manners and conversation of the Scotch was attempted from the Scotch dialect.

The proverbial national vanity of Frenchmen was to me, however, a matter of astonishment. According to the statement of these young men, it had been proved that English gold had gained the battle of Waterloo, and the French generals

had been bought to betray their men. French troops, when opposed to English troops, had on all former occasions beaten them.

Unfortunately, their knowledge of the history of their own country, at least of those periods of it which were overclouded by reverses, they had never heard of; nor would they believe that the English had ever been in possession of any part of France before; until I asked them, if they had ever heard of the Maid of Orleans. "Oh yes," they said, "she had done no more than the French nation had always done in beating your troops."

I then asked them, if she had passed over to England, or where it was she had defeated them? our German teacher at this set up a loud laugh, when my friends were obliged to come to the conclusion that the English must then have had possession of a great part of France. Once when they compared the military characters of the two nations, drawing, like true Frenchmen, conclusions to their own advantage. I called their attention to Cressy, Poictiers and Agincourt, when they laughed outright, saying they had never heard of such battles.

They seemed, however, to have some notion of the wars of the Duke of Marlborough, but I was obliged always to touch upon these matters

with great caution. They evidently did not relish these accounts, after the German, to whom they had referred, had declared that they were too true, telling them also that a French army would no doubt repay the compliment one of these days by visiting England. He would jocularly remark, "I think they have nothing there worth having, if we except their women and their prints, of which, should I go, I intend making of the latter a capital collection."

I made good progress in miniature painting, and soon became the favourite pupil of Mansion.

He had a commission for a copy of a portrait of Napoleon by Isabey. There were five or six copies of the portrait in the studio, and mine being the best, he offered to purchase it from me for twenty-five napoleons, if I would take that sum, I declined selling it. It afterwards became the property of the late Sir H. Taylor, and was sold with other pictures of his on his demise, but I never could learn for what sum. It was considered a very good picture. The fellow to it, a portrait of a French lady by Mansion, was afterwards engraved at the particular request of an English artist, to whom I lent it for that purpose.

Mansion was so well satisfied with several of my

copies, from his original paintings, that on all my latter works he insisted upon writing on the margin "après Mansion," in order I suppose that his academy might become better known.

I had frequent opportunities of visiting the neighbourhood of Paris in my uncle's carriage, accompanied by his family, and latterly some families arrived with whom I had been acquainted in Berkshire.

An Indian officer, Colonel B. surprised me much; the heat at Paris during the summer of 1822 was excessive. He declared it unbearable, and that he had suffered more from it than he had ever done before in India; at length he, in consequence, returned with his family to England.

For my part I thought the winter of the same year in France, to be more severe than any I had experienced in England. I attribute this feeling as much to the houses, being better adapted to keep out heat than cold, and the dearness of fuel, as to the nature of the climate.

My uncle made me acquainted with a young French officer of the *Garde de Corps*, married to an English woman, the widow of the late Sir J. H—. A more ill-assorted match I never witnessed; it seems they were both taken in. The lady I believe had been a great loser at the

gambling table, and the Count belonged to the *ancienne noblesse*. Having no money himself, he imagined that the widow of one English Baronet, and the mother of another, could not be otherwise than rich, although she was old enough to be his grandmother. She also conceived that a young and handsome officer of the Garde Royal the representative of an old, and distinguished family, could not but be in comfortable circumstances. It was only after their marriage that they discovered their mistake, but to the credit of the Frenchman, be it said, that he always continued to treat her ladyship with the greatest kindness.

We went there one day to make a call. The Count was from home, but we were informed that the ladies would see us. We were accordingly shewn into a room furnished more in accordance with their circumstances than their rank, and the Count's sister shortly after made her appearance but did not stay long, saying that Lady H— was at her toilette, and would perhaps require her assistance.

The Countess was neatly dressed, had a beautiful figure and a face remarkably animated, with perhaps an expression of too much piquancy and devilry to be altogether pleasing; yet she was

certainly very handsome, and my uncle seemed to be in great favour with her.

She was not long before she returned, buoyant as the gossamer, but it was only to skim through the apartment; and although, in passing, she apologized, it was with such a degree of arch wickedness, that I could scarcely restrain myself from a fit of laughter, but which my uncle prayed of me not to indulge in, as Lady H— was in the adjoining room. The Countess had gone for her ladyship's cap and wig, making no attempt to hide from our observation these necessary embellishments.

She lightly bore them between the fore-finger and thumb, of each hand, like a second Hebe, carrying the cup of nectar to Jupiter, and as she gracefully floated past us, she cast a look at the Colonel as much as to say, "see to what I am reduced, but am I not revenged?" After waiting some time, at length a pair of folding doors were thrown open and her ladyship made her appearance. I think I never saw so large a woman before, or one so fat; she was followed by the little Countess I have just described, but as she took a seat, so as not easily to be seen by Lady H—, I was afraid she might have some plan in view to excite our risibility at her sister-in-law's

expense, so that I was actually afraid to turn my eyes in the direction where she sat.

On our way home, my uncle told me that he would take another opportunity of introducing me to the Count, as he was a very civil fellow and might be of service to me, if I should wish to see the interior of the Tuileries; but he added, "Be on your guard how you lend money to them; you will find these young fellows apt to borrow from you otherwise, and I have always found when I lend money, that I not only lose my money but my friend also, so I have come to the conclusion of keeping the former, as some consolation for the loss of the latter." I told him he need not be under any apprehension on that score; for that I had scarcely enough for my own purposes.

I had now made up my mind to follow the profession of an artist, and I therefore wrote to a relative of mine, who was interesting himself a good deal about me, that I had no desire to return to the service, and not to take any trouble to get me appointed.

By return of post I received an answer from my friend, saying that he did not approve of my idling away my time at Paris, and that I should see myself appointed in the next Gazette to the 80th Regiment, stationed at Malta.

I was not over well-satisfied with this arrangement, and could I have foreseen, that I should remain with the rank of Captain for twenty years, and be obliged to purchase promotion after all, I should most decidedly have objected. As it was, I consulted my uncle in Paris, who gave it as his opinion, that I could not do better than join the regiment to which I had been appointed, particularly as it was stationed in so pleasant a quarter. I now made arrangements to return to England, and on my informing my father of what had occurred, he seemed better pleased than I expected to have found him. He always thought I should have on joining, the Brevet rank of Major.

Having everything now ready to join my corps, I waited on the Adjutant-General, to obtain permission to make the overland journey to Marseilles, and having received my leave, before quitting the Adjutant-General, I determined to make myself known, and accordingly I told him that I formerly had the honour of serving under him, although he did not appear to recollect me. He said, "Not quite so, but your face is so familiar to me that I have been endeavouring to recollect where it was that I had seen you."

I told him it was at Cadiz, when he had been Adjutant-General; he then rose to reach the

written application I had made for leave to join overland, and I suppose for the purpose of ascertaining my name, and exclaimed, "Impossible! you were then a major if I recollect properly, and you are now captain! how is this?" I informed him I was major of brigade, and hence the soubriquet of major. "But you afterwards commanded a battalion, did you not? and I think you memorialised to be promoted to a company in the British service. I recollect it; for we considered it so strange a position for a subaltern to be in; but you must have mismanaged your affairs sadly, not to have urged your claims at the close of the war. Lord Lyndoch was then disposed to serve you, and he could have done so, but now it will be more difficult, if it is not impossible to do so. I will, however, see if anything can be done for you. Have you called upon Sir H. Taylor to thank him for your appointment?" I replied, I had not, "Well then attend his Levée to-morrow, and you will find that I have been there before you."

I thanked him, promising to act up to his suggestion.

On the following day I waited on Sir Herbert, who received me very kindly, saying, that the Adjutant-General had been speaking to him about

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me; but unless I was prepared to purchase, he did not see how I could be assisted, promotion by Brevet was now impossible. I had not the means of purchasing, or I suppose they would have given me an unattached Majority, and afterwards have brought me on full pay; so on taking leave of him, I thanked him for having re-appointed me to a regiment without having called upon me to pay the difference (£511) considering my claims and that I was so junior an officer. His reply was remarkable, "Captain B—, although to hold out hopes would be to deceive you, I must say that I do not know of any officer of your rank and standing in the army with claims superior to yours."

I reported to my friend the Adjutant-General the result of my interview, and he now recommended me to write to Lord Fitzroy Somerset to whom the memorial I have spoken of was addressed; his lordship was then Surveyor-General of the Ordnance, and in addressing my letter to him at the Ordnance office, I was not aware that he had left town that morning on a particular mission to Madrid, but I received an answer in the following words:

"The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Captain B—— and in reference to

his letter to Lord Fitzroy Somerset, of the 8th instant, begs to inform him that it is quite impossible for the Duke even to take into consideration his claims to promotion by Brevet, till he shall have received the permission of the Commander-in-Chief, so to do."

January 12, 1823.

To receive an epistle from the Duke, was an honour I did not expect, and I confess it rather surprised me. I took the letter to the agents. Mr. C—— at once told me that the letter was not in his Grace's handwriting, and moreover to his certain knowledge the Duke was then on a visit to the Duke of Athol, in the Highlands. I went in a towering rage to the Ordnance office, and shewing the envelope enclosing the note which had thus been addressed to me, demanded of some of the clerks whether they knew the handwriting, and they told me it was that of Mr. P——. On seeing the note in my hand, he at once guessed the object of my visit. He told me my letter ought to have been sent to Lord Fitzroy's private residence if I had meant it for his perusal solely, but seeing it addressed at the Ordnance office, he naturally conceived that it was on the business of the department and therefore opened it.

"But on what authority did you answer it?" I exclaimed, "and in the name of the Duke of Wellington who to my knowledge is not in town."

"Because I am aware that it would have been his answer had I forwarded your letter to him, for should his Grace once enter into the claims of the officers who served in the Peninsular war, he would be inundated with similar applications. If however you are not satisfied, I pledge you my word of honour your letter shall be forwarded should you again address his Grace; but you will find his answer just as I have by anticipation written it."

I declined, and this incident deterred me for twenty-five years from renewing my application. At the expiration of that period I did so, at the the same time sending the Duke this identical note, to explain why I had delayed urging my claims for so long a period.

His Grace was then Commander-in-Chief. On returning to me the note he did not say it was not his writing, but put on the envelope, "You had better keep this for some future occasion."

CHAPTER III.

Travelling Companions from Paris—Voyage from Marseilles—Porto Langone and Leghorn—Accommodation on board and Fellow Voyagers—Conduct of the French Crew in consequence of the misconduct of one of the Passengers—Jealousy of the Officer commanding the Fort at Porto Langone—Visit to Pisa—Arrival at Malta—Introduction to the Officers of the Regiment—Society sought after—Employment of leisure hours—The Officer commanding the Regiment and his Lady—Character—Visit to Lisbon—Presentation at Court—Maigre dinner with the Major-General commanding—Cintra—Hospitality of an English Merchant and his eccentricities—Return to Malta—Sir Thomas Maitland, Lord High-Commissioner—His Peculiarities and Character—The Marquis of Hastings—Dinner Parties—Brigade and other Field Days—Light Infantry Drill—Pace Stick—A Sailor's explanation of the use of the Pace Stick.

I now proceeded to join my regiment. The road from Calais to Paris was covered with snow, and in many places the drift had filled up the ditches on each side of the road. Two coaches left Calais at the same time; the leading coach served as a guide to ours. I was much surprised at the nonchalance of our postilion and conductor. The driver of the *diligence* which preceded us not

being able to distinguish the road, drove into the ditch, and the coach in consequence upset. Belzoni the celebrated Egyptian traveller was an inside passenger. He was an immense man, and how he and the other passengers got out, I can scarcely conceive. All we could say or do to prevail upon the conductor of our *diligence* to stop and assist them, was of no avail. The fellow drove on in the most unconcerned manner, and left the others to shift for themselves. I was happy afterwards to learn that none of them were much hurt.

After staying a day or two at Paris, I proceeded on to Lyons and Marseilles. My *compagnons de voyage* were two French officers, one a major of cavalry, and the other a subaltern of one of the infantry regiments stationed at Marseilles, and forming part of the army about to enter Spain, under the command of the Duc d'Augoulême. The Major had been a prisoner of war in England, and was married to an English woman. He was very gentlemanly in his manner, a great admirer of England, and everything English, and was equally anxious to impress me with a favourable opinion of French officers; but unfortunately the Lieutenant marred all his endeavours on this head. The latter was a very coarse but a good-

natured fellow. He had also been a prisoner of war to the English, and had been detained in Canada, as a "Sous-Officier." His stories were all of the Guard room; he was very fond of narrating his adventures amongst *les belles sauvages* to the great annoyance of the Major, and from some of his stories, I imagine he must have meant the Esquimaux ladies. The Major was very much disgusted with him. At Lyons the old gentleman left us, and the other worthy came on to Marseilles, where he was on his arrival placed in arrest, with several other officers of his regiment, for some political offences.

I had great difficulty in finding a vessel about to sail for Malta, and when I did succeed, I found the cabin and between decks had been taken by a newly married couple, a Mr. M— and his wife, with a lady's maid. After some difficulty I prevailed on the French captain of the 'Bombarde,' to take me as a deck passenger.

I had purchased at Marseilles a very handsome hearth-rug. This piece of vanity was intended to astonish my brother officers on my arrival at Malta, but it turned out afterwards a most important and useful purchase. The only bed I had provided myself with, was a large military cloak, which for the two or three days I expected to be

at sea would have been quite sufficient; instead of which it was nearly two months from the time I embarked at Marseilles, before I reached Malta. Our vessel was a very small one, and whilst at sea, I was not permitted to hoist anything to protect me from the rain, when sleeping on deck. I was therefore obliged to sleep in the jolly boat, with a piece of sail thrown over it, as an awning. My ribs and the ribs of the boat could not agree together, until I bethought myself of interposing my handsome hearth-rug, which made me an excellent mattrass for the remainder of the voyage.

My travelling companions seemed as little anxious to ask me below, as I should have been to join them; to me the close smell and stench would have been less bearable than my berth in the boat. We experienced very bad weather after leaving Marseilles, and after beating about for several days, were glad to be able to reach Porto Langoni, in the island of Elba, where several other vessels had also taken shelter.

We remained some days after the fleet had left, and I took that opportunity of visiting the mines. A French colonel of engineers had charge of them, and he boasted of having been a very intimate friend of Napoleon's. In proof of which

he showed me Isabey's portrait of the Emperor, found at the Tuileries, with a drawing by the Duchess of Angoulême at the foot of it, representing the Emperor's retreat from Paris. This caricature he told me the Emperor had valued highly, indeed it was very spirited and cleverly done, and Bonaparte on leaving the island had presented it to him. The Colonel also gave me a choice selection of iron ores, and other minerals found in the island.

The crew of our vessel appeared to be all of the same family. There were not more than three or four seamen amongst them, the others seemed mere landsmen, and if they were deficient in skill, they certainly were not wanting in caution.

We left our harbour several times and as often returned to it, sometimes from the weather being too stormy; but more frequently from the appearance of a small black cloud on the horizon, at the sight of which the crew always became alarmed, and returned to their anchorage.

The bride, whom I have mentioned as occupying the cabin, was one of the most vain, affected little creatures imaginable. She was, I believe, the daughter of a physician at Bath; her husband used to humour her in every whim. The cabin boy was the son of the second officer of the ship,

and she was always complaining of his obtruding on their privacy, although both her husband and herself were aware that all the ship stores were kept in their cabin, and consequently the boy's frequent visits were rendered necessary by his duties. She must also have found her maid's presence a check on those moments they wished to dedicate to the undisturbed enjoyment of each other's society, for the poor girl frequently came on deck in the coldest weather to pour out her lamentations before me, and to regret that she had ever left home, her mistress was so changed and unkind to her since her marriage.

But it was on the head of the poor cabin boy that the lady poured out the vials of her wrath and that to such an extent, that it occasioned quite a tumult in the ship. The boy was one day washing plates and dishes or something of that kind, on deck forward, and nothing would please her but to take post and stand close to him. I told her it would be better we should walk aft, so as not to interfere with the boy's vocations, but to no purpose; she would stand there, and no where else. The consequence was, as might have been anticipated, in drawing up water over the side of the vessel, a portion was spilt on her dress, and the husband arriving at the mo-

ment, she turned round to him saying, "Do you allow me to be thus treated?" He instantly and without further consideration struck the boy, and the whole crew were immediately in an uproar. The cook would no longer cook for them. The captain swore that he, or any of his crew, would go down into the cabin whenever they chose, and I really thought they would have laid violent hands upon the poor husband, who stood all amazement at the storm he had thus thoughtlessly raised against his wife and himself. It was evident that the blows having been given by an Englishman, made the offence in the eyes of the boy's kindred more heinous than it otherwise would have been. I begged M— and his wife to go below, and it was not till after a very long discussion that I succeeded in pacifying them, but the captain, who was otherwise a very civil sort of fellow, would never speak to them afterwards.

My friends had run short of cash, and I was therefore obliged to divide what I had between us; a second division took place, and I was then left with only four or five sovereigns. It was now evident that if we were detained much longer, our cash would fail altogether, I therefore asked the captain if he would supply our wants. He said he

had treasure on board, but it was consigned to parties at Malta, nevertheless to oblige me, he would let me have what cash I might require, provided it was returned to him ten minutes after our arrival at Malta; and that my travelling companions did not receive a sou of it. He would not accommodate them with a single farthing.

I told him I would try and hold out a little longer, and then if we did not reach Malta I would avail myself of his kindness; but in reality I deferred doing so till after I had asked M—— whether he could procure supplies at the moment of our landing, as I knew nobody there. Having ascertained that he could, I asked the Captain a few days afterwards to let me have one hundred and fifty dollars. He seemed surprised at the amount, and said, "Ah! I see it is not all for yourself; but never mind, you shall have it."

At Porto Langoni we were frequently visited by a Tuscan officer of the name of Sabatini. He spoke English very well, and was very anxious to get into our service. He had a fine voice, and his great amusement when he came on board was to bespatter Madame with the most fulsome flattery, which she and her husband swallowed as a just tribute to her merit and beauty, though God knows, she had little of either to boast of. I

was walking with him one day on shore when he suddenly left me, and proceeded towards a crowd of people who had assembled round a bucket, out of which a man was selling some food steaming hot. My friend soon returned eating something he held in his hand. I asked him what it was, when he told me it was a kind of fish of which he was extremely fond, and he requested me to return with him and taste it. I did so, and found the fish he so much extolled to be a polypus, the arms of which appeared to be much relished by the country people; I tried some of it, and it tasted to me like the tip of the claws of a crab, neither better nor worse. I do not recollect ever having seen the polypus eaten in England; the sapier, or ink-fish, is also a great favourite with the Italians, when stewed.

The fort at Porto Langoni was a heap of ruins, yet the jealous Commandant would not allow me to enter it to visit my friend, lest I should desire to take a plan of the works. I found this jealousy very general amongst foreigners, yet the sentinels it would seem are sometimes negligent.

When I left the island, Sabatini was confined to his bed from illness, and he wrote to me expressing his regret at not being able to leave the fort to bid us adieu. I, however, walked up to the fort,

and went to his quarters without having been stopped by any of the guards. He wrote to me afterwards to Malta, to say that his Captain had put him in arrest on learning that I had been inside the fort, but that he had been speedily released.

When we were outside the harbour the wind once more shifted and became foul, so that we were obliged to make for the port at Leghorn. On entering the harbour in company with a large boat with a lateen sail, we were both caught in a heavy squall; the sail of the boat which preceded us was absolutely torn into ribbons. We, however, sustained little damage, as our sails had been taken in in time. At Leghorn we remained some days, waiting for a change of wind, and we had some difficulty in prevailing upon the commander of our vessel to allow us twenty-four hours to visit Pisa.

The bronze gates of the Cathedral of Pisa, the Leaning Tower, the fresco paintings by Giotto in the Campo Santo, and the paintings in the Cathedral by Il Fattore and Andre del Santa, were to me so great a treat that I determined on my arrival at Malta to prosecute my studies in painting on a larger scale than I had done before. It seems to me, however, quite evident that the first

leaning of the tower is attributable to the porous nature of the soil, and the action of the river Arno upon it; as the tower leaned in that direction, as did also some of the houses.

When we next put to sea we succeeded in reaching Malta. A vessel which had already arrived there, had left Marseilles one month after us. It was therefore believed when this news was reported, as no tidings had been heard of us, that we had gone down in some of the heavy gales of wind which had blown for some time past. After getting from M—— money enough to repay our captain, I proceeded to report myself to the commanding officer of the 80th regiment, who I found on parade with the corps at Florianna. The regiment was then commanded by Major Maclean, the Lieut.-Colonel being in England. The Major, after introducing me to the officers, took me to Sir Manley Power, who was commanding on the station, and to whom I had a letter of introduction from Sir John Keene.

In the evening, I went to a grog party at Captain B——'s quarters in the Auberge de Castille. The party was numerous, and amongst the guests was the chaplain of the flag-ship, Parson M——, who afterwards figured, not very

creditably, as a character in a novel called "The Patrician at Sea."

It was known that I had been previously in the Portuguese service; and I happened to remark how very similar the Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian languages were, so much so, that with a knowledge of the two former I could manage to understand the greater part of an Italian newspaper. This the chaplain doubted, and he offered to bet me a sovereign that I could not translate ten lines of any of the Malta newspapers in the room. I took his offer, and the newspaper being produced, I made so correct a translation that he handed me the sovereign, observing that it could not be from knowing the Portuguese and Spanish, but from my knowledge of Latin; of which, by the bye, I knew nothing.

These "He" parties I never liked. I was from previous habits so little inclined to be a toper that even our large mess parties, which I felt it my duty to attend, were to me very irksome. I sought ladies society in preference, whether that of the Maltese or of my own countrywomen. Of the Maltese, I may boast that I contrived to get more acquaintances than any other officer of the garrison during the time I was on the island. This was brought about through a recommendation I re-

ceived from my uncle, when at Paris, to call on the Canonico Berthes, and make myself known as his nephew. I did so, and found him very kind. He made it a point to introduce me to all the families whom he thought would interest me. I met with similar hospitality from other friends of my uncle.

The Canonico, was a man of about five feet eleven inches in height, good looking, and rather corpulent. He was considered one of the best preachers in the island. He had been chaplain to the Maltese regiment which had been taken at the Island of Capri, and had afterwards been marched a prisoner of war to Verdun, where he became acquainted with the late Lord Blaney, at whose table he was frequently a guest. In this school he had become a *bon vivant* of the first water; and when I asked him to dine with me at our mess, it was deemed so novel an occurrence that the fellows made a dead set at him, thinking to make him drunk.

I sat with them until about eleven o'clock, and finding he had no wish to leave the good company he was in, I told him when he felt disposed to retire, to call at my apartment and I would have some coffee ready for him. He came to my room about one o'clock; I asked him what he had

done with his companions? He told me he had been left quite alone, for his friends had dropped off their perch under the table in succession. He seemed quite sober and literally answered Thomson's description of a toper.

> "Perhaps some doctor of tremendous paunch,
> Awful and deep, a black abyss of drink,
> Outlives them all; and from his buried flock
> Retiring, full of rumination sad,
> Laments the weakness of this latter time."

He dined with us frequently afterwards; but I do not think the youngsters ever again made a set at him. The fact was the worthy canon had an enormous appetite, and ate as much as he drank.

I now began in earnest to learn Italian. The Canonico Berthes' pic-nic parties, in an extensive garden, in the vicinity of Il Borgo, and some dances got up by families, his friends, where there were plenty of ladies, were of the greatest service to me, as nothing was spoken but Italian. At these parties I seldom met with a single officer, and it was accounted for by an old lady, who had known my uncle well, by saying:

"When this island was first garrisoned by the British, we used to have our house full of officers every evening, who came to amuse themselves,

the best way they could. We were always delighted to see them; but since there has been quite a revolution in society. Now when we go to your parties, and even to those of the employés, our countrymen, and who perhaps were formerly our domestics, we find everything on a scale of cost far beyond our means. Not wishing to appear less than we have been when society was sought for itself, and not for mere display, we have shrunk into the background. But you seem to be one of those who seek our *society*, and not for the purpose of eating and drinking, and we *are* therefore and shall be *always* glad to receive you."

This same old lady on another occasion when I met her, came to me and said, "You live at Burmelo, on the other side of the harbour, and to return there from the opera, or from parties on a stormy night, must be inconvenient; we seldom retire before half past twelve, and I have ordered a room and a bed to be prepared and kept ready for you on the ground floor, least you should suppose you are disturbing us; my son shall give you a latch key, by which you can let yourself in whenever, and at what hour you like." It was very kind of her, and I thanked her accordingly, but I did not accept her offer.

During the period I was at Malta, a great deal of my time was devoted to drawing, and afterwards to painting, in the academy of the Snr. Leizer. The study I had made of miniature painting, previously, was, I found, far from being of any advantage to me, now that I wished to adopt a larger manner. But I persevered, and even attended the dissecting room at the Maltese hospital, in order to obtain a knowledge of osteology and myology, preparatory to drawing from the naked figure. There were also at this academy one or two officers of the 80th studying, and the young Marquis of Hastings. They had little perseverance, all one by one dropped off. I also took a few lessons to learn to model in wax; it was not so difficult to model likenesses as I thought it would be.

Our commanding officer, Major M——, was a very worthy, yet at the same time a very singular character. He was a married man and his lady the pink of primness, and the type of everything meek, good, and amiable. They had no family, and were very liberal of balls, pic-nics and other entertainments; but he was the most passionate of mortals. One would have thought that he had been a Welshman, instead of a Scot. His fits of passion used occasionally to produce

the most ludicrous scenes, at the same time he was incapable of doing an unkindness, even to an enemy if he had one. He was well read, and a zealous and good officer, intelligent enough in every branch of the service, excepting that which is the most easy to acquire. The slightest incident would throw him off his guard. Certain of the officers he always fancied were laughing at him, and in consequence, instead of attending to his own work he used to suspect and watch them. If anything went wrong, he would invariably turn round to one of the lieutenants, and if near enough he would address him, "Well, Master Jemmy, what are you grinning at?" The immediate consequence was that Master Jemmy was not the *only* one to be seen grinning. Like most infantry officers whom I have known, who have served originally in the cavalry, the major was a very bad rider, and very nervous on horseback.

Master Jemmy was married to the daughter of the Adjutant-General at Malta, and on brigade field days he frequently acted as aide-de-camp to his father-in-law, or to the General. The Major's horse would never stand still when another approached him, and Jemmy aware of this fact, and for a little mischief, whenever he was the bearer of an order, always rode at full speed to

deliver it to our chief, who generally lost his seat and his temper, although prepared for the contingency—roaring out as the other was about to leave him, "When the General wants an aide-de-camp, I wish the Adjutant-General would select some one who knows how to ride."

Traits like these, occasioned the officers, when speaking amongst themselves of their Major, to call him by the nick-name of Fusbos, and indeed in many particulars, he was very like that worthy minister of regal power.

His more particular friends, and those with whom he was on the greatest terms of intimacy, I have observed came in for the largest share of his wrath, but it was soon over and forgotten.

At balls, or parties given by private families, he was always in his glory on seeing a great number of the officers of his own corps. When those of other corps preponderated in number, he was equally disgusted, and as I was generally amongst the first arrivals, he would ask me where they were, and what had become of them? If I answered that I did not know, "Then why don't you, Sir," sometimes I would be so inconsiderate as to tell him that I did not carry them in my pocket. "Ah," he would then say, "I suppose this is some of your Portuguese manners." But notwithstanding

that my manners were so bad, he seldom gave a party without inviting me.

I once put him in a tremendous rage, at a brigade field-day. The line was to change, front right thrown forward, and left thrown back. In those days the companies when in open column, stood facing the point d'appui or company, on which the formation and change of direction took place, in order to facilitate the covering of the officers on the pivot flank, prior to wheeling up right and left into line. It is now otherwise; all the companies in front of that on which the formation is made, stand with their backs towards it, and the pivots cover in column, as best they can.

My company, on which the change was to be made, having been wheeled into the proper direction, and my covering sergeant having moved out to my front, to mark where the other flank would come when wheeled into line, I told the officer of the company which preceded mine, to take up his distance from my covering sergeant, and to cover on me, with his company, facing towards us, when standing in column, but when wheeled into line, would then have that space occupied by our respective companies. Nothing more was required but to face all the other com-

panies of the brigade to the right, and make them march upon their covering sergeants, and cover upon us; the companies near me did this, but the Major interfering with the others, the whole was thrown into the greatest confusion.

He was told that I had been the author and cause of this catastrophe. When he passed by me, I said to him in a low tone, "It is all right." "All right! what! the two companies to stand grinning at each other with all this distance between them? This is some of your Portuguese movements I suppose, for I have seen it no where else." In the meantime, Sir Manley Power, and the Deputy-Adjutant-General came up. The General looked on very quietly, whilst I heard the Deputy-Adjutant-General (who knew about as much of the matter as the Major himself) tell the General. "It was very provoking, Captain B— ought to have known better." After the Major's excitement was over, and order somewhat restored, Sir Manley Power coolly remarked, "The officer was right, you had better have left matters as they were, and now you are all wrong."

My "Portuguese movement" and its consequences created afterwards a great deal of laughter amongst us.

At this period there were several families of

saints, or over righteous people at Malta, who kept aloof from those families who did not affect an over amount of goodness. The former were cemented together by a missionary of the name of J——, who preferring the enjoyment of their good cheer, and leading in a psalm to the proper theatre of his labours in Syria, generally spent the greater part of his time at Malta, and as our Major would sometimes observe, in sowing dissensions amongst the brethren; for he did not appear to belong to the Church of England, although sent out and employed by the Church Missionary Society.

To those who could wear a mask, this select coterie was very accessible. The families were in general opulent, and had some pretty girls amongst them. One of our subalterns, figured a good deal as a *saint*, and proposed to a young lady of that coterie; but she preferred, and married another subaltern of our regiment, a *sinner*, and that sinner, no other than the Major's friend, Jemmy. We were none of us sorry at the rejected lover's disappointment; he was a troublesome fellow, always meddling with the chaplain's duties.

I had not been long in Malta when this officer one day came to me to complain that he had been

grossly insulted by a drummer of my company. I inquired how it had happened, when it appeared that the drummer had been flogged a few days before, and the complainant going into the barrack room, began to harangue the fellow on the enormity of his past life which had thus brought him to the halberts.

The drummer considered himself insulted by being taunted with the flogging he had received, and turned round upon him to say that he had no right to do so, and ended by abusing him most grossly. I asked him if he had any charge of the barrack room, or if he was on duty, and finding that he had neither one or the other, I told him he had been served right, and I requested that he would abstain in future from entering the barrack-room of my company for any other than military purposes, and when on duty.

He had brought a number of religious books and tracts with him, which he now requested that I would distribute, and allow the pay sergeant to receive the price from the men. I told him that the military chaplain was the proper person to see to these things, and I positively forbade the pay-sergeant, unless by my order, taking charge of them; they were accordingly given back to him. A few weeks afterwards, I found these

books again on my table. where the pay-sergeant had left them; the pious Lieutenant having told him it was the order of the major commanding that they should be distributed; but it proved afterwards to be a falsehood, such as your over-righteous people will sometimes perpetrate to answer some particular end.

The Major having thought it necessary to intimate to me that my company was more in debt than he approved of; I told him it had been occasioned by the number of religious tracts I had issued by his order, and paid for.

It then came out that he had never been spoken to on the subject. His ideas and mine were alike on the subject of religious fanaticism creeping into a military community. Nothing divides a regiment more into parties than a difference in religious observances, however trifling; particularly if they are constantly paraded before men's eyes by enthusiastic zealots. To create and perpetuate in his regiment a kindly feeling, one towards another, should be the principal aim of a commanding officer. If he does not shew the strictest impartiality to all men's creeds, he is stepping beyond his duty, and interfering in that of the spiritual teacher, authorized by the regulations of the service.

The Major was in such a rage at the cheat which had been put upon him, with the view I suppose of getting rid of the surplus stock of the books and tracts remaining on hand now that the saintly subaltern had obtained leave to return to England, that he thought at first to apply to have the leave cancelled, but on reconsidering, he thought it better to let him go.

I was with the Major, the Adjutant and several other officers standing on one of the bastions, as the vessel with her precious freight was sailing out of the harbour, when he suddenly recollected himself, and inquired of the Adjutant if Mr. G— had paid his subscription to a charitable fund instituted in the regiment; the answer was "No," the last subscription of five shillings had not been paid, "Then stop the ship, sir!" roared out the Major; the Adjutant pointed out the impossibility. "Stop the ship, sir!" he immediately repeated, when after an awful silence of some seconds, in which the Major was seen clenching his fists, and grinding his teeth, he exclaimed, "Then confound his blue eyes." Of course we could none of us refrain from laughing at this allusion to "blue lights," a term of derision applied to the sect to which the charitable defaulter belonged, which

was not lessened by his turning round upon us saying, "Well! what are you all grinning at?"

It was about this time that a general-court-martial tried two officers of the Royal Artillery, for refusing to fire a salute on a signal being given by a priest from the Church of St. Lawrence. I was a member of the court. Although it did not appear in the proceedings of the court, yet I believe the imposing of this duty on the artillery originated in an accident which had occurred some years previously. One of the docks had been blown up, and a great deal of damage done, and at the time it was attributed to the firing of some petards from the door of the church by boys and others in honour of St. Lawrence, at his festival; and as by the treaty with the Maltese, by which we held the island, it was stipulated that the religion and customs were to be preserved inviolate, a sort of compromise was made by Sir Thomas Maitland, that if no guns were fired from the church, in future, he would undertake that the required salute should be fired by our artillerymen, on a signal being given by one of the priests. This the two officers considered as forcing them to participate in a religious observance of the Popish faith, and hence their refusal to comply.

Notwithstanding the Major's violent tempera-

ment, the most attached and happy couple I have ever met with, was certainly Mrs. and Major M—, (alias Fusbos) yet they could not have won the Flitch of Bacon!

The very virtues of this worthy couple carried to excess, constituted their failings. She never could resist an application from a soldier's wife, or a soldier, founded on a tale of sad woe or injustice, without interesting herself in their behalf with the Major, although nine times out of ten she was imposed upon. He, again, was very jealous of petticoat influence, and not content with never listening to such a topic, would read her a lecture on the propriety of attending to her own business, and leaving his to himself, such as one would have imagined, would have cured a person of her meek and timid character from attempting anything of the kind again, but it only served to make her more cautious how she broached such subjects to him.

I sometimes rode with them, and this occasioned my having at times, more than I otherwise should have done, a sort of peep behind the curtains.

Mrs. M— would inquire of him with the greatest gentleness, "Do you, my dear Hector, know a person of the name of Mrs. —?" "Yes,"

he would reply gruffly, "and Mr. — too, and I wish you did not know either of them." "Well my dear, you need not be so cross, I was only going to tell you." "I don't want you to tell me anything." "How can you, my love, know what I was going to say to you?" "Yes, I do though, you were going to say something very improper Ellen;" and this he accompanied as usual by grinding his teeth and glancing alternately at her, and at me, as much as to say, "You see there is a person present, witnessing your folly."

On seeing the big tears standing in the gentle creature's eyes, I generally rode on; the Major would continue storming for some time, when observing her in tears, he would tender his emblem of reconciliation, his *little finger!* she would touch it and all was over. It was the olive branch of peace, and I verily believe of penitence, on the part of the Major, for he certainly was doatingly fond of his wife.

All this hubbub had been occasioned probably by some case which he had disposed of in the morning, and which the complaining parties had referred to her, as a higher authority in matters of sentiment, or whom they thought it would be more easy to deceive; for married soldiers, and

soldiers' wives used most grossly to impose upon her.

After remaining at Malta about twelve months, I obtained leave of absence to proceed to Lisbon. The business which took me there, was to make arrangements to have forwarded to me any amount of remuneration in the shape of retired pay which the King of Portugal might be pleased to bestow upon me, and also to procure from the two medical officers who had attended me when I was injured on the retreat from Puente Largo and Madrid in the year 1812, certificates of the cause which led to it. Both these medical men happened to be then in Portugal, and they immediately sent me to Lisbon the certificates I required.

On landing at Lisbon, I went the first night to the opera at St. Carlos. I was in the pit, almost in the front benches, and on turning round after the first act to see the house, I observed two young men striding over the benches, and evidently making towards the place where I was sitting. On arriving, one of them said, "You are Major B—, are you not?" I replied, "I was so once, but that I was now Captain B— of the army of His Britannic Majesty." "Well, major or captain, I am very glad to see you," and on his shaking

hands with me, I recognised Antonio Vas whom, it will be recollected, I had superseded in the command of the 6th Caçadores. On introducing me to his friend, a Count of the King's household, he said to him, "This is the Major B— I have often talked to you about. Although he knew how to keep us tight in hand, when that was no longer necessary, he was the greatest boy amongst us." After asking me where I was to be found, he left me saying he would call next morning. He commanded, with the rank of colonel, a Light Battalion of the King's Body Guards, but before he went, he said, "I suppose some claim on the government has brought you here, and if so, I hope to be able to be of service to you."

Through this officer I obtained a great deal of assistance and information of what was going on, regarding a certain sum of money which the Portuguese government were about to set apart for the Anglo-Portuguese officers. He even got me a draft of the government decree which was expected soon to be published, although no one believed that such would be the purport of it. I was so convinced of Lord Beresford's selfishness, that I had no doubt he would be glad to see it carried into effect, without attempting to obtain

a more equitable and just distribution of the amount.

I waited on the British Minister to inform him of my suspicion of the nature of the expected decree, but as it had not been published, he recommended my leaving a letter addressed to him with some friend, to be delivered when the decree I anticipated might be published. I did so. I left the letter in duplicate with two persons, lest one should leave the country; but neither of them attended to my wishes. The first, my agent, happened also to be the Marshal's agent, and he showed it, I suppose, to the Marshal, for the latter some years afterwards appeared quite conversant with its contents. The other wrote to me at Malta, returning my letter, and saying that although everything had happened as I had anticipated, the Marshal was heavy metal, and as it might do me an injury, he would not give it in!

The following is a copy of the letter,

"Lisbon, October 16, 1824.

"Sir,

"Having understood that His Majesty's late Minister at this Court, and Marshal Lord Beresford, had instructions from the British Govern-

ment, to enforce the claims of the English officers, formerly in the Portuguese Service, and ensure them an adequate compensation from the Portuguese government, I beg leave humbly to state to your Excellency that the arrangements for that purpose as they at present exist, as may be seen by the subjoined documents Nos. 1 and 2 are of such a nature, and so partial in their operation, that none of the officers with junior ranks (be their services and particular claims what they may) are entitled to any compensation whatever; whilst those of superior rank and standing in the British army, without attention or reference to their Portuguese services, are entitled, most of them, to full pay for life; even should they not have served *one day* during the late war, or have been a few months only in the service; an instance of which exists.

"It may be necessary to point out to your Excellency that the decree of His Portuguese Majesty, in favour of British officers, was given previous to the existence of the Constitutional government, and was intended to place British on an equality with Portuguese officers, that is to say, by completing twenty years of service and upwards they would be entitled to retire with certain privileges, but the Constitutional government by

dismissing them altogether, of course precluded many from fulfilling these conditions. Another schedule or decree, therefore, from a change of circumstances became indispensably necessary, grounded on the length and nature of the actual services of each, in the Portuguese army; and to which all British services should have been perfectly foreign; in which case the rank attained, and consequent increase of pay would have insured each officer his proportionate and proper recompense, and no reasonable cause of complaint could then possibly have arisen. Further, it might have been supposed, if the state of the finances of the King of Portugal would not permit so many officers receiving full pay, the reduction would have been made general throughout every rank, according to their several pays; for it cannot be supposed that the British subaltern or captain that fought for him the *whole* of the war, was less entitled to the miserable pittance of his relative rank, than the colonel who perhaps never served a *day*, or general officers are to their prouder distinctions and emoluments.

"It is true, Sir, by Document No 3, an opening is left whereby officers in my circumstances are allowed to mendicate a compensation for their particular services, and accordingly at considerable

expense and inconvenience, I have undertaken a journey here from the Island of Malta; and being obliged to return without even an answer to repeated applications which I have been making for the last month past, I hope will plead as a sufficient excuse for my soliciting the protection and support of your Excellency.

"I beg leave to enclose a copy of my memorial to the Portuguese Government.

"I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,

"THOMAS BUNBURY,

"Captain 80th Regiment,

"Late Lieutenant-Colonel Portuguese Service.

"To His Excellency Sir W. A'Court, &c."

I was introduced by the Minister to the King, and I was preceded at the levee by an officer of the fleet, and a lieutenant of Marines, who were staying at the same hotel as myself.

The King after paying some compliments to the British officers who had served in his army during the Peninsular War, and to the fleet then in the harbour, where during some tumult he had been received and sheltered, more especially expressed his obligation to the lieutenant of the Marines and midshipman who had preceded me.

I passed on, fearing the good man might also dwell on the obligations felt for the former by one of the princesses, his daughter, of whom scandal had been not a little busy, and I believe with some truth.

The levee was held at the Palace of Bemposta. Altogether it was a great farce. The stone staircase leading to the reception-room was lit by two or three farthing candles, stuck against the wall. There was no carpeting, neither was there a single chair to sit upon; but I understood afterwards that it was not considered etiquette to be seated, whilst you are waiting to be introduced into the royal presence.

Finding the old trump, the Knight of Malta, Lieutenant-General João Lobo Brandão to be commanding at head-quarters, I called upon him, but could not stay to dine. He however made me promise not to leave Lisbon without doing so. He lived a considerable distance out of town, at the Campo St. Ana, and I only staid dinner the day I went to take leave of him. On telling him that I had come to dine, he said, "Well, it's just like you, you knew I should have liked to have given you a good dinner, and here you come on a Friday, a fast day; but it is all your own fault, you must be satisfied with what you can get.

My two brothers from Lamago, Commendadores, and a blind Fidalgo, a Knight of Malta dine with me also, as they have just arrived, and you may prepare yourself for a good roasting from the latter, if he hears you are from Malta." I told him that if assailed I should rely upon his support and assistance, but he told me not to be too sure of getting it.

Although meat was banished from the table, I never sat down to a better dinner in my life. Fish dressed in every conceivable way was followed by a second course such as is seldom met with, for the old knight had a capital cook, and he was himself a great epicure.

The wines and fruits had been brought down from the country by his brothers, the Commendadores, and although not answering the description of any we have imported to England, were extremely fine.

Altogether we passed a very pleasant evening; not that I escaped entirely the censure of the blind knight, but it was much more moderate than I expected. They were all very inquisitive regarding the present state of Malta. I unwittingly asked the young knight how long he had been blind, when he answered, from his birth, but that he had performed a caravan notwithstanding,

otherwise he could not have become one of the Order.

I suppose his caravan must have been from Sicily to Corfu, as the remains of the Order were at this time located at the former island.

Previous to my return to Malta, I visited Cintra, which I had not seen before, and I was much struck with the splendid view from the villa, built by the celebrated Mr. William Beckford. The immense expanse below, bounded by the sea, reminded me of some of Poussin's landscapes; nor was the villa itself less remarkable. It was built of wood, on an artificial plateau, at the side of a steep rocky declivity, backed by the range of wild mountain scenery; on one of the peaks of which is built the far famed Cork Convent.

On other parts of the mountain, overhanging the village of Cintra, are the remains of some old and extensive Moorish fortifications. What most excited my astonishment here, was to find on the very top apparently of some of the highest ridges, cisterns of great extent, full of the most limpid and excellent water. I had frequently before noticed in some of the old Moorish towns of Portugal, similar cisterns, and it is a matter of

wonder to most people, how at that height the water is collected.

I noticed one at Lamego high above the house of a friend of mine. This, however, had been walled up by order of the authorities, the bones of a number of infants having been found in it.

The palace at Cintra is also a very remarkable building. I never saw more beautiful tracery than that on the windows, or more varied patterns. Each window was of a different pattern, the sides and centre supports of each arch, were also different, and yet at a short distance the whole seemed perfectly symmetrical. The number of windows, doors and arches was immense, each rivalling the other in beauty.

The wine called colares, is grown in this district. It is equal to any claret, which it very much resembles. At one time it was believed that this wine could not be drank in perfection any where but on the spot, but of late years I have seen it advertised for sale in London.

I suppose in no part of the world are a greater number of different kinds of wines grown, than in the neighbourhood of Lisbon. You have first the Vintro de Termo, or Lisbon wine, the ordinary wine of the district, a most delicious pale coloured white wine; the wine called dry Lisbon is grown

nowhere; it is the ordinary wine of the district, brandied and spoilt for the English market. You have next Bucellas, Calcavellos, the Muscat of Satubal, Chamusca (a red wine with a strong aromatic flavour) Bara Bara and some other good wines, the names of which I do not now recollect.

I have frequently regretted that I did not take a ground plan of Beckford's Villa, before it fell into irretrievable ruin. It was a perfect square with circular low towers at each angle. In the the centre of each face was a pointed door-way, in the style of some of our old abbeys, having at each side two pointed windows, the whole being surrounded by the broad terrace I have already mentioned.

This form was certainly not favourable for convenience in the internal arrangements, yet I recollect all the rooms were well shaped, of good proportions and sizes, and well adapted for the purposes to which they were designed.

During my stay at Lisbon I dined frequently with a very original character of the name of Stephens. I had brought a letter from one of the officers of the 80th to his uncle, who was staying with him and by whom I was introduced.

The Stephens I knew was the surviving brother of two others, who had left him possessed of great

wealth. They were of very humble origin, and had made their property in Portugal where they had introduced a glass and other manufactories; by building houses, and making loans and contracts with the Government they had become very rich.

The old gentleman was very hospitable, and had his table laid every day for fourteen or sixteen people. On being introduced, you had a general invitation to dine with him as often as you liked, but he never on any account increased the number of covers. When there was a large fleet in the harbour you were sure to be crowded, at other times you were left tête-à-tête with the old gentleman and Mr. Bowness who first introduced me; sometimes, however, you met a very agreeable party.

Bowness had dined there daily for twenty years. He had received a common place mercantile letter of introduction which had caused Stephens also to give him a bed in his house; he had remained here ever since, and being an old stager, he sat always at the bottom of the table.

Some imagined that Bowness would come in for the principal part of the old gentleman's property, but those who knew Stephens better were rather sceptical on that point.

Mine host's manner was very good and he was full of anecdote.

When I last dined there, a captain with the brevet rank of a major in the Marines, stated to be the old man's nephew, had arrived from England. This person at the request of Stephens had been induced to sell his commission, and divide the proceeds with his sisters and come and live with him—yet when he died I am told he left him little more than the value of his commission. To Bowness the old gentleman left nothing; a trifle to a French lady living on the opposite side of Stevens Square, and the bulk of his property, which was immense, to Sir J. L—— whom he had taken it in his head was a relation of his; but on condition that the hospitable board should be kept up as usual. Sir J. L—— was a man already considered very wealthy. He had a son in a cavalry regiment in the army then in Portugal, under Sir H. Clinton. The son kept up the hospitable board, but the regiment did not dine with *snobs*; the officers of his own regiment were said to be his principal guests.

No one had ever heard of this supposed relationship until the will was opened, and Sir J. L's astonishment may well be imagined when he learnt he had so rich a relation.

This year, three English millionnaires died on the shores of the Mediterranean. Woodhouse of Marsala wine celebrity, and owner of the Marsala estate in Sicily. Stevens, owner of a great deal of property in Portugal, and to whom the Portuguese government was, it is said, a great deal in debt; the name of the third, I do not now recollect, but two of the three had been at one time before the mast, and the other was of equally humble origin.

After my return to Malta, I received my diploma as Honorary Knight of the Tower and Sword from the King of Portugal, in the licence addressed by the Earl Marshal of England by order of His Majesty George the Fourth, it is stated to have been bestowed upon me in approbation of the services I rendered to the Portuguese Government during the Peninsular war. The only condition required in that document was, through some intrigue of Field-Marshal Lord Beresford, never permitted to take effect until the year 1835, after I had obtained a majority in the 80th regiment. The Marshal had taken a great dislike to the Marquis of Palmella, the Portuguese Minister, and I suppose for political reasons, wishing to shew him a slight, had prevented me and others receiving permission from our own

government to accept that honour until he thought proper. Captains by him were not considered worthy of that honour, although regulations respecting Foreign Orders contain no such restrictions regarding rank. However, I had had my revenge on him a short time before, when thinking to bully me on the score of the letter to Sir Wm. A'Court which by some means or other he had seen, I stopped him by asking his lordship in a very quiet manner, whether in that letter there was a single sentence that was not strictly true; when he was driven to say, that it was not his fault, the arrangement having been made by the Portuguese Government.

On leaving Lisbon, I was obliged to take my passage in a vessel sailing for Sicily. An old maid, sister to the then Marquis of A—, with her servant, were to have been my fellow-passengers, but the servant girl took to herself a husband when her mistress was about to embark, and consequently was left at Lisbon to enjoy the blessings of matrimony. The landlady where I stayed was so provident as to put on board a large pie and sundry other good things, and fortunate it was that she did so, for the commander had made no provision whatever for his passengers during the voyage, although he had not forgotten

to charge us at a very high rate, and to require payment before we embarked.

We anchored in front of Belem for the turn of the tide, Miss H— having tasted the skipper's wine, and finding it execrable, had time to send on shore to her former lodgings for half a dozen bottles of Madeira. Neither the wine nor the pie could last for ever, although on her account I declined partaking of either, when I discovered our position. The poor lady being accustomed to better food, the instant our private stock was finished, every afternoon was attacked with hysterics. The voyage was long and boisterous, and without a female attendant I can scarcely conceive how she managed to exist. She had a great collection of geraniums in upwards of forty flower pots, on deck, with which she intended to astonish the inhabitants of Naples, her ultimate destination. These, from the boisterous state of the weather, and the carelessness of the seamen, one after the other disappeared, yet she bore even the loss of her flower pots with christian fortitude, and it was only when we had arrived at Messina that this gave way. The occasion was this. We had taught during the voyage, the captain to play at chess. She was playing with him, and was on the point of giving check mate; I, as usual, pointing out

the danger, and how he might avoid it, when a messenger arrived to say that we were to remain in quarantine another fortnight. This accumulation of misfortunes was not to be borne. The lady was in a dreadful rage, and poured out the vials of her wrath on my devoted head, most unsparingly. But when a woman is in a passion without a cause, neither the soothing system, remonstrance, or apology is of any use; it is only adding fuel to flame, so without saying a word, I sounded a retreat, for which she must have felt very grateful. When we again met she expressed great regret at her violence.

Baron Fagel, the Hanoverian minister, hearing of our unfortunate position, called upon us to say that he had been exerting himself to obtain our release with the authorities at Palermo, but without effect, although there were no grounds for our detention, as we had a clear bill of health, but that he would on his return try them again.

We were released two or three days afterwards. I had now another difficulty to overcome. The Maltese boatmen with whom I had been in treaty to convey me to Malta, now refused to give me a passage, lest its being known in Valetta that I had been in quarantine, their boat and themselves might experience similar treatment, and it was

only on my engaging to pay for the *sparonara*, a demurage; should that be the case, that they then agreed to take me.

On my arrival at Malta the regiment was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Pitt, who had rejoined from leave of absence. A medical board was shortly afterwards ordered by the Secretary at War, Lord Palmerston, to be assembled, and on my appearing before it, I received a certificate which led to my obtaining a pension for life from our Government. This allowance came very opportunely, as my Portuguese allowance of £100 per annum was now reduced to one third, and was paid irregularly.

The Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, or as he was familiarly termed, "King Tom," had been Governor hitherto. He was a most singular character, and was said to be possessed of extraordinary talents for the situation. He would submit to no control. The quarantine regulations which vessels sailing from Malta to other ports in the Mediterranean were obliged to undergo, were vexatious in the extreme and injurious to trade. He was constantly visiting the Levant and the Ionian Islands, and as it was well known that he would never submit to be put in quarantine,

vessels from Malta were subject to the same regulations as if they had come from the Levant direct.

He was always ready to reward and distinguish merit, but he found it more frequently amongst the Scotch and his own kindred. A young Scotchman, a Lieutenant in one of the regiments in garrison told me, shortly after being introduced as Mr. D— M—, that on that occasion Sir Thomas addressed him in broad Scotch "Ye'll do young man, you have got two good names tacked to your — (not a very delicate expression) there is nae the devil a fear, but you'll get on," and so it proved. He was a lieutenant-colonel before I got one step of rank.

The staff, however, had no sinecure in serving him. His habits were not the most abstemious, and whenever he was to a certain extent under the influence of Madeira, his ideas became more luminous, and if he had any despatch of importance to concoct, it was then he would ring his bell, sometimes in the middle of the night, for his aide-de-camp or secretary, and dictate to him what he had to say.

By day he was always difficult to please. In dictating to his Secretary, his style was peculiarly vigorous, and lucid, nor would he allow a single word to be substituted for one of his own.

King Tom was also occasionally much given to frequent a particular window, to survey the damsels, native and foreign, as they passed the Strada Vescova underneath him, for what purpose it would be only conjecture in me to say; but having his back turned to his secretary he could not at all times be heard, and should his train of thought receive any interruption by his being asked what he had said, or by the assertion that he had not been heard, a volley of abuse was sure to be the reply, and without the required information being given.

In reading over to him what he had dictated, however correct the same might be, he would at once detect a word he had not used, and then insist on the whole being recopied. To his personal staff, his immediate relatives, who were too dull to be employed in these occupations, if they offended him, or he fancied sometimes they had been smoking in the corridor of the palace, he would make remarks far more expressive than delicate.

At Malta he frequently gave balls, when, if he attended at all, he would be either excited, or would attach himself to some one person with whom he would enter into conversation without noticing in the slightest manner the salutations of his guests.

This indifference to public opinion is not commendable, and the Maltese families in particular did not relish such treatment. Strange to say he was a great porcelain and china fancier, and he left a large and valuable collection. He died at Florianna at the residence of the military chaplain, where he had been on a visit.

King Tom was succeeded in the government by the Marquis of H——. This exalted nobleman soon made himself very popular with all ranks and classes of people. He was the pink of politeness, never forgetting the smallest point of etiquette in addressing those with whom he entered into conversation, whether on business or familiar discourse. In a person so high-minded and chivalrous, I never could understand how he could have been guilty of the conduct attributed to him in the affair of the H—— peerage.

The Marchioness was reputed in certain quarters to be haughty and proud, but I saw nothing of it. On her arrival at Malta she summoned, it was said, all the ladies of the public officers (probably it was an invitation) to attend her to the Church of St. Giovanni of Jerusalem, where the governor appeared in state, to witness the solemnization of the funeral of Pope Pius VII. which gave some offence. I saw a

good deal of the family, and a more amiable one I never witnessed.

I happened to be on the main guard with two subalterns, when the Governor arrived, and in company with the officers of the guard dined with him that day, as we did on subsequent ones, not excepting those when he received no company, and dined in private. The officers of the guard being always considered as part of the family and dining with them as such.

In the small ante-room where we were waiting for dinner to be announced, besides the family, there were two Maltese, or foreign gentlemen dressed in black with bag wigs, swords, &c., I thought they might be members of the Council of Government, but I had never seen them before, consequently judged them to be greater personages than the captain of the guard could possibly be considered. I accordingly had made up my mind to hand in Lady Flora, the eldest daughter. The eventful moment arrived, when hastening across the room to tender my arm, I was intercepted by the Marchioness herself, who came and offered her own, desiring me to lead her into the dining-room. I was in a dreadful state of trepidation and alarm. The Marchioness may perhaps have perceived it, for in place of the

haughtiness of manner I anticipated, she strove to make herself as agreeable as possible, that I should not regret not having Lady Flora to chat with. Her ladyship's conversation turned upon their villa and gardens at St. Antonio, and what they intended doing there. She must have learnt that I painted a little, for speaking of the chapel, she said, she hoped I would contribute to the meditated improvements, by painting a blind for the principal window. Her ladyship talked also very knowingly about her dairy, the breed of pigs, poultry, &c., in order I suppose to adapt her conversation to my humble capacity; but her experience in these matters, I suspect, was very trifling. I have since heard doubts expressed whether "Gude Wife" as she wanted to pass for, she knew a duck's egg from a turkey's.

I got, however, on this day such a dose of domestic economy, that on all future occasions when dining there, I took care either to secure one of the young ladies, or to herd with the gentlemen.

It was said that the Marquis, when he arrived at Malta, was not free from pecuniary difficulties, and one or two mysterious looking personages were living at the Government House, whose business was not well understood. One of these, a doctor, the young Marquis greatly disliked,

because he thought he was employed by his mother to watch over his conduct and prevent his entering a certain coffee house, the resort of dissipated young officers of the army and navy, and where he was, I think, very properly forbidden to go.

The dinners at the Palace were got up in a style totally different from any I have seen elsewhere, and in a manner well suited to a hot climate. The dessert was put on first, and with the fruit, a plentiful show of bouquets of flowers &c., which gave the table a very cool and refreshing appearance. No hot dishes were put upon the table, and the dishes were all handed round, already carved, yet so well that they appeared as if that operation was still to be performed.

The Marquis always took wine with such of his guests as had not been there before. These he addressed on such occasions by name. The aide-de-camp told me that he was always obliged to ascertain the names of all, and send the Marquis the list before dinner, in order that he might not neglect a piece of etiquette he thought it was so necessary to comply with. His lordship I really think slept with his garter and sword on, and we were always obliged to sit down to table in full uniform.

Sir A. W—— commanded the troops at

Malta at this time, and Lady W—— was very fond of giving musical parties; and what with balls, fancy dress balls and masquerading during the carnival, the opera and the theatre, we passed our time very agreeably.

The regiments in garrison there were the 80th, the 85th, the 95th and a battalion of the Rifle brigade, besides the Maltese corps.

Sir A. W—— was a zealous and active officer, and frequently had us out for brigade exercise. Sometimes a line of country was selected, and pickets posted with orders to fall back upon La Valetta gradually, when attacked by another force which was detached for that purpose. They were not to retire before an equal force unless their flank was turned and the retreat threatened to be cut off, and the retreating party had always one half, or a strong party in reserve to occupy a fresh position, as they were driven successively from the others.

I was present at the first three of these field-days, and on the last, the Marquis of H—— and an immense concourse of ladies were present; but on these days a mad artillery man, stationed at the signal post, at Valetta, contrived to mar or spoil the operations of the day; to our great amusement, but to the great discomfiture of the

commanding-officer of the Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel G——.

The first day he hoisted the signal, and without waiting for orders, before the troops had reached their ground; the second day he hoisted a wrong signal; and the third Lieutenant-Colonel G——, thinking to be safe, ordered the old signal-man to be shut up, but he contrived to make his escape, and making at once for the signal tower he again threw everything into confusion by hoisting the signal without orders. On a minor scale, these field-days were better managed, but I never saw anything less edifying than the infantry regiment of the garrison when they attempted to drill as light infantry. The light company was first thrown out to cover the front of the battalion, after which, commanding officers began manœuvering away, changing front, or what not, and forgetting as it were the unfortunate skirmishers who were either driven into a corner, or if the officer commanding them, believing himself to be a conjuror, attempted to anticipate the next intended evolution of the battalion commander, his men were run out of breath, and after all he found himself any where but where he ought to be. A want of agreement between the evolution of the batta-

lions, and the men employed as skirmishers was always visible.

In actual warfare, skirmishers in moving to the attack are employed as feelers to reconnoitre and ascertain the weak points of an enemy's position, and also, if not encountered by a similar arm, to harass and vex them during the advance and before the moment of actual collision. Hence in the evolutions of mimic war, on the drill ground the line of skirmishers should guide the advance to the attack and the battalion conform to them; whilst in movements to the rear, or in retreat, it is the duty of the skirmishers to conform to the direction taken by the battalion, so as to be in readiness either to cover their retreat, or suddenly unmask or uncover their front should it take up a position of defence.

Sailors have sometimes very quaint ideas regarding the drilling of soldiers.

Our junior Major was a very taciturn personage, yet he seemed to enjoy a good joke as much as most people. I met him one day coming from seeing a squad at drill, he was rubbing his hands together in great glee with a sort of short hysterical laugh. I could not help inquiring what it was that appeared to amuse him so much.

He had been watching the movements of some

Jack Tars, belonging to a ship of war in the harbour, and who were passing their remarks on a squad of soldiers at drill. The sergeant following in the rear with a pace stick, to measure the length of each step the recruits took. This they could not understand at all, until another sailor having joined the party, he was appealed to. The reply was, "Why don't you see *that*," (meaning the pace stick) "is what they steers the chaps with! It's all the same as the rudder of our ship to them ere lobsters."

The Marquis of H—— died at Malta about this time. I don't believe that any previous Governor had been so popular with the Maltese as the Marquis. His manner towards them was always courteous, and with foreigners nothing will compensate for a coarse address and brusquerie of deportment.

CHAPTER IV.

Schrantz, Marine and Landscape Painter—Opera—Masquerades during the Carnival—Character, how supported—Obtain leave to join the British troops in Portugal—85th Regiment—Cabin scenes—Gibraltar—Reminiscences of old Comrades—Determination to proceed overland to Cadiz—Hospitality and kindness of the Officers of the 85th Regiment—Incidents on the Journey—Lisbon—Superstition and Infidelity—Join the Depôt of the 80th Regiment at the Isle of Man—Carlisle—Tynemouth—Sunderland—Society in the latter place and its vicinity—Fine Arts—Snow Storm and Detention—Highwayman wins a Wife—Return of the Regiment to England—Join the Head-quarters at Portsmouth—March towards Stafford, but afterwards detached with a Company to Wrexham, North Wales—Fire at Oxford—Archery Meetings, and Hospitality of the neighbouring Gentry—Military occurrences—Sudden March to Blackburn—Lieutenant Crowther and the Misses Bolh.

MALTA was never more gay than when the Marquis of H—— was its Governor, and his death was much regretted, not only by the British garrison, but also by the Maltese inhabitants. I now employed myself in the study of landscape painting under Schrantz, a marine painter. We

sketched from nature together, generally in water colours, and I made considerable progress under the tuition of his son, Giovanni Schrantz. The latter was distinguished by a neatness of handling, and by the purity of his tints; but the father was too much of a mannerist, being kept in constant employment re-copying his own works for sale to persons visiting the island.

The opera was good, and generally each corps had a large box for the accommodation of its own officers. Conjointly with another officer I took a small box to ourselves. I forget how much it cost us a month, but it was something ridiculously cheap. During the carnival, masked balls were held in the Opera House, and certainly, the licence on these occasions was very great; persons of both sexes, who otherwise would not have had the most remote chance of becoming known to each other, here in the dance became acquainted, and frequently laid the foundation for many an after adventure; but there seemed also to be a sort of tacit understanding, that one day in every carnival, a row was to take place in the Opera House between the giddy-brained youngsters of the garrison and the Maltese of a similar temperament—many were the broken heads on these occasions.

At private houses masquerading was better con-

ducted, and some characters were well sustained. Colonel B—— as a schoolmistress, with the officers of his regiment in frocks and bibs was admirable, although a more awkward set of young ladies I never saw issue from any boarding-school in promenading order. The prim demeanour of the teachers, with the ungainly figures of the children, trying to look infantine, albeit, some of them were upwards of six-feet in height, the solicitude of the schoolmistress about the carriage and the behaviour of her establishment; her lectures to some on the inelegance of their gait, to others for looking at the *men*, were laughable in the extreme. One of the young misses (she of six-feet) was all sobs and tears, because a man had looked at her; the attempt of the schoolmistress to console and assuage her grief by caresses, calling her "my love," "my dear," "my poor child," "not to mind them," and wiping away her tears with her handkerchief was very comic. But when the young lady turned round and pointed out the "*naughty* man," the house was in a roar of laughter at the hit. The person selected to pass their witticisms upon, although wearing a mask, and otherwise disguised, had evidently been recognised by them. He was at once the ugliest and the vainest man in the garrison; he was also very short, and the schoolmistress

in pointing out to him the impropriety of his conduct, called the *infant of six-feet* to his side, saying, "You see, Sir, how she looks down upon you; but, when the young lady is grown up, how much you ought to feel yourself beneath her, for your conduct this day. Had you bestowed an approving eye on a person who might have appreciated your attention," (fanning herself very violently), "and have understood it, the thing would have been more pardonable."

After rallying the unfortunate wight most unmercifully, the schoolmistress then ascended a sort of platform, and commenced haranguing the male masques generally on the dissoluteness of the times, when a lady could not take an evening's walk with her establishment without being subject to be stared out of countenance by a rude set of *boobies*, calling themselves *gentlemen*, and now and then indulging in a hit at some of the most prominent characters in the masquerade. With affected disdain, Colonel B—— now retired from the room with his charge, amidst loud plaudits, bobbing and curtseying in a most edifying manner.

A commissariat officer with his wife, in the character of ballad singers, were also very good. They sang, or rather screamed some excellent comic songs and ditties, which he accompanied on the

fiddle. It was a long time before it was discovered who they were. He was so well disguised with a wooden-leg, and a horrid gash across his face, made by drawing a horse-hair across it, giving his face altogether a most maudlin and grotesque appearance.

The lady in a mobcap and dirty old bonnet slung across her arm, with the rest of her dress to correspond was no less remarkable. No street singers ever made more doleful faces, or screamed more discordantly, yet they were both excellent musicians, and the comic effect of some of their slang songs setting the company in a roar of laughter, was greatly heightened by the serious and mechanical manner in which they were executed. These ballads were all in print, as hawked about the streets for sale in England, and how they contrived to get together so ludicrous a collection, I cannot conceive.

A widow lady, in the confidence of most of the young ladies and their mammas, undertook to play the traitoress to a certain extent and supply me with a number of *billets doux*, if I would undertake to get these copied so that her handwriting might not be detected, and deliver them to the parties to whom they were directed. I was to assume the character of Figaro at the next masquerade ball. She

was, I believe, assisted by another lady, equally mischievous. The letters were exceedingly well written and full of point and humour, but no one ever discovered who wrote them, and she was the very last person in the garrison to be suspected.

The first letter was addressed to the daughter of an officer of the garrison staff. This young lady was a great flirt, and amongst others of her admirers were a captain of the regiment and a Captain M——. The letter purported to be from a third lover, full of complaint at the preference shown his more fortunate rivals, but full of ardour and affection also; and as a climax, the writer of the letter begged to assure her how great soever might be the merit of his rivals, the flame that devoured him was more real and substantial than that with which Captains M——, and Co——burn.

The pun created a great deal of laughter, for the sly widow having asked to see the letter, read it aloud.

Another poor girl, who it was said had been for some time engaged to be married to a Lieutenant H—— of the Royal Navy, was very anxious to know if I had any letter for her, but she was too timid and nervous to approach. I gave it to the widow to hand to her, and she maliciously broke

the seal and read it aloud to the following effect:—

"Dearest Marianne,

"Availing myself of the departure of our old and trusty emissary Figaro, for your lovely island, by the packet 'Baloon,' I write to inform you how much it pains me to have learnt of the conduct and sarcasms of my many rivals, at the preference you have shown your sailor, whose affections continue to point like the needle to the pole, to you, my lovely Marianne; but despite of the insinuations of those by whom you are surrounded, you may rest assured if you will but rely on the pledged faith of your absent sailor, you will certainly find that the long expected moment will eventually arrive when you may become Hobson's choice."

Another was addressed to a one-armed captain of the regiment, who had served in the West Indies, where he had acquired the soubriquet of "Look and Die" from the great attention he paid the ladies, or rather the admiration he seemed to court from them of his own person. He was not aware that this nickname was known in Malta, and at the masked ball he was very importunate to know if I had any letter for him. From the number I had for

delivery I could not at first find it, but at length it was found and I gave it to him to read.

To understand its purport I should explain that on Sunday afternoon there was always a military display or parade of all the regiments in garrison at the Florianna Parade Ground, when the different regimental bands assembled and played together, whilst the troops were marching past the General in review order. On these occasions, there was always a crowd of spectators to hear the band, and to enjoy a sight of the "pomp and circumstance of war." The letter is supposed to be from a young lady, and was to the best of my recollection to the following effect:—

"Beloved and adorable Captain,

"In an evil hour I was prevailad upon by papa and mamma to accompany them to the Florianna Parade on Sunday last, for there I first beheld thee, thou beauteous model of the Pythean God. With what all conquering grace, the martial hero, whom every gentle maiden present could not but adore, marched past; perchance they, like myself, are alas! doomed to 'Look and Die.' With what elegance of manner was that valiant sword waved in thy hand, at the time of gracefully saluting thy country's banner! Around the General

nothing was heard but the tender sighs of the gentler sex, showing how much love and pity are allied in lamenting the ill-fate which had deprived thee of that dexter arm when raised for thy country's weal. My agitation was extreme, and such that I thought my mother perceived it, and that I was about to 'Look and Die.' Alas! then, dearest of men, have pity on a poor disconsolate maiden, to whom virgin modesty forbids to give her parents' name or place of residence, yet seek! oh, seek betimes her love! who otherwise in despair must 'Look and Die.'"

The hero did not receive the letter at all in good part, he said to me, "You did not write that letter, but I know who did, and I will see her about it, I did not expect it of her." I told my friend the widow, that I feared she was detected; but she replied, "Oh! no, he thinks it was your colonel's lady, and you had better see her, and prepare her for the meeting, for he will be sure to call there, as he conceives that she is the only person that knows of his nickname 'Look and Die.'"

I heard that he afterwards called, but of course he could make nothing of it, neither could he find out who I was. I had many letters besides verbal messages to deliver. They were principally directed

to young ladies; but as they referred chiefly to the sayings and doings of their own select little coteries and the mysteries of the toilette, they could be understood only by the parties themselves, who were not a little astonished to find how any gentleman could know so much of their affairs without being a member of their respective families. The treacherous widow was intimate and much consulted by all, and being of a humorous turn she converted everything into a subject of sportive merriment, without ever being the object of suspicion.

When the French army entered Spain under the Duke of Angoulême in the year 1825, a subsidiary force under the command of Sir H. Clinton was sent by the British Government to Lisbon, and the 85th regiment from Malta was ordered to join this army. As I was already tired of the routine of garrison duty, I applied to be permitted to accompany this regiment as a volunteer. I found great difficulty in obtaining the necessary leave of absence, as I had been indulged the preceding year with leave. I then pointed out that I was actually a pensioner of the Portuguese government and in the event of a war breaking out, from my knowledge of the country, which would probably become the scene of operations,

my interests might be materially advanced were I to rejoin the Portuguese army. I was then allowed to go. We were escorted by the 'Pyramus' frigate, commanded by Captain S——, but the 85th were embarked in the 'Romney' (troop ship). Lieutenant S—— of the 60th (Rifle Corps) with myself sailed with these, and the cabin was greatly crowded.

As neither S—— nor myself had any choice of accommodation, being considered merely as guests, we swung our cots immediately over the mess-table, and in this we were very fortunate; for our messmates were a sad wild set of fellows, and the officers of the night-watch never failed on returning to the cabin to play off some practical joke or other, but chiefly by suddenly loosening the rope by which the foot of the cot is sustained, the dormant occupant was pitched out of bed on to his feet. Our position, (for S. and myself scarcely swung clear of the mess table,) precluded our being victimized by their rousing us so unexpectedly from our slumbers.

The Commander of the 'Romney' was a strict disciplinarian, and never could comprehend how the young officers of the regiment were permitted to indulge in any boisterous hilarity that might suit their fancy. Sometimes he would send down

the schoolmaster of the ship, to request they would make less noise, and this old sailor would generally address the first officer he met on entering the cabin, by saying "Captain; the Commander has sent me here to desire you will keep the soldiers (meaning officers) quiet," and these had too much good taste to return any but a civil answer, such as "we will," "we will, old fellow," and the old fellow was immediately accommodated with a drop of grog, or whatever was on the table.

The Commander had greatly distinguished himself in North America. In conversations I had with him, he did not seem to approve of the officers of the army being so young, as some of those belonging to the regiment on board, although I never met with a more gentlemanly set of youngsters. But the social intercourse which pervades all classes of officers in a regiment, without being permitted to degenerate into want of deference to the authority of superior rank, it is found, for the maintenance of discipline in the navy, must be limited to civility, and to that conciliatory yet firm manner, which from the nature of this branch of the service, is absolutely required for the exercise of strict command.

On arriving at Gibraltar, the regiment received orders to proceed no further. It was accordingly disembarked, and took up its quarters at Europa

Point. Major F., the commanding officer, was kind enough to accommodate me in his quarter, and S—— and myself became the guests of the corps during our stay.

I here met some old Peninsular comrades. The day after we landed I went to a ball champêtre, given by my old Caçadore chief, Lieut.-Colonel S.; and on another occasion when dining with the 6th regiment, I was struck by the voice of the major of that corps, near whom I sat. His voice was very familiar to me, but of his person I had not the slightest recollection. On inquiry, I learned that his name was J——; and I then recollected an adventure which happened to us both at a place in Portugal, called Obidos, on the advance of the British troops in 1809 on Oporto.

Being now certain of my man, I addressed my long lost comrade in a very serious tone, saying; 'Major J——, does your conscience ever torment you for having stolen the saddle at Obidos?" The officers at table were far more astonished at the accusation, than J——, who now for the first time recognized me. We were of course both very much changed, and glad to meet each other again; and the officers were very anxious to hear the story of the saddle, which he assured them was quite true; but the owner was a scoundrel of a

Portuguese in the French interest, and who, to escape punishment, had abandoned his dwelling. Then turning to me, he said: "and to have acted properly, you ought to have taken another."

The old saying, "give a dog a bad name, and then hang him," was never more verified than with my friend J——. He had been one of the principal actors in the duels with the officers of the American frigate; and although badly wounded by one of them, his courage and firmness in persisting to continue the combat, tended greatly to put a stop to the silly swaggering of the Yankees. The authorities at Gibraltar, however, seemed to consider that there could be no row, or wild prank in the garrison, without J—— being the leader, or having the principal share in it. I went with him one evening, during the Carnival, to the theatre, to a masquerade; a great number of Spaniards were there, and shortly afterwards some officers of the 22nd arrived, and a row immediately commenced between the Spaniards and a one-armed officer of the Royal Highlanders, when J—— proposed that we should immediately return home. I expressed my apprehension that this officer might be ill treated, when J—— replied, "He knows well how to take care of himself, and if he does not, there are plenty of his own

regiment in the theatre who will see him righted. It is fortunate that you are with me, for I am certain of being summoned to-morrow morning; the Spaniards have got hold of my name, and they always report me."

I accordingly got a note from him the following morning, saying that he had been placed in arrest, and begging that I would attend the investigation that was to take place. The staff officer who was conducting the inquiry, seemed much surprised when I told him that J—— had nothing to do with the affair, and that we had left the theatre together in order that his name might not be dragged forward on the occasion.

I now became very impatient to continue my journey to Lisbon; but no vessel was announced to sail from Gibraltar to that port; and to travel overland to Cadiz was considered dangerous, from the disturbed state of the country. A division of the French army was besieging Tarifa, where a party of insurgents under Colonel Valdez had taken refuge. The cannonade could be heard at Gibraltar very distinctly; yet, notwithstanding it was only sixteen miles, we received no tidings of their proceedings.

As the theatre of operations was in a part of the country with which I was tolerably well acquainted,

I determined to proceed at all risks. My travelling companion was dissuaded from accompanying me, but told to wait for a vessel to convey him direct to Lisbon.

Nothing could exceed the kindness we experienced from the officers of the 85th. I had been living in a cottage near Europa Point for nearly a month, the guest of Major F., the commanding officer, and on requiring my bill from the mess-man, I was told that he had been instructed by the mess-committee not to make any charge.

I now arranged my effects in such a manner as to have them all in two small trunks, of equal size and weight, between which my muleteer or conductor was to sit on one horse, whilst I rode another.

I had not many valuables, and therefore was not in much dread of being robbed. I took also with me a small basket of eatables, on which to sup on my journey, the distance being fifty miles. On arriving at the neutral ground, at the barrier, we were stopped to change horses, and that the baggage might be searched. The former was necessary, because the horses, had they passed the barrier, to re-enter again would have to pay a duty; and the latter was to give the custom-house officers an occasion to extort money. I was determined to

resist this if possible, and an incident occurred highly characteristic of these gentry.

On opening my trunks, the officer appeared to be in no hurry to inspect my kit: and when I remonstrated, telling him that I wished to proceed on my journey, having no contraband articles, he told me my trunks, having been made in Gibraltar, without searching further, he could inform me were contraband. I replied, "If so, then make your seizure and send me back; but remember, I will send over to-morrow a remonstrance to Don Carlos O'Donnell, the General officer, commanding at Alzauras, who, no doubt, will see justice done to me." On this, my friend withdrew a short distance, and commenced walking to and fro with the greatest nonchalance. I saw plainly that he wanted to give me an opportunity of administering a bribe: the undergraduates, in fact, pointed this out to me. I accordingly went to him, not for this purpose, but to explain that I perfectly understood what he wanted. I was, however, determined that not a maravide should he see of mine. The Spaniard was now in his element, and, drawing himself up majestically, he said, "Sir, a Spaniard never takes a bribe. That may be the practice with British officers, who, we know, do such things." I told him I was very glad to hear

that the Spanish officers of the Custom-house were so upright, and therefore begged he would forthwith pass my trunks.

On arriving at the spot where he had desired them to be placed, he ordered me to take them into a small building set apart for such purposes; but I declined carrying them, telling him that British officers were not his servants. After a little mutual abuse, a fat assistant, in order to put an end to the dispute, carried the trunks into the building.

The searcher inquired if I had any letters. I produced two from the General Officer commanding at Malta to the British Chargé d'Affaires at Lisbon, at which he seemed greatly delighted, saying he must take them to the Commandante; but I cautioned him that it would be at the peril of the Commandante and himself if either of the seals were broken. If they could not pass, they were to be sent back to the Governor at Gibraltar; but that I must proceed.

I had observed the Commandante, a Lieut.-Colonel at no great distance; but hitherto he had not troubled himself to inquire into the cause of my detention. My friend, the searcher, after showing him the superscription, came running back to hurry my departure, telling the others that I was

a courier, and no time was to be lost. He also told my muleteer to see me quickly past two other stations without being searched, and to explain that I had been delayed at the barrier.

The searcher now turned round upon me to inquire why I had not at first declared myself a courier carrying despatches, when I should have experienced no delay. I replied that he had no right to detain any British subject in the manner he had done. I perceived the advantage of my supposed official capacity. I did not undeceive him.

On mounting my horse, I threw a dollar to the fat assistant, telling him he was the only gentleman of the party; but this was immediately taken from him by his comrades, and a fairer division amongst them made, they screaming after me in full chorus, that they had "done me at last."

I have no doubt that the searcher would have been satisfied with half the amount politely administered.

At midnight we stopped to sup at a wine-shop near the barriers. None of the inmates or travellers seemed either to know or care anything for the fate of Valdez and his party, although we were now so near Tarifa. The apathy of the country people formed a striking contrast with the bom-

bastic effusions of the soi-disant patriots and Exaltados.

Early in the morning I arrived at Beyer, and I stopped to breakfast at the inn near the bridge at the foot of the hill, where there was a small picket of French cavalry stationed: I appeared to excite much curiosity amongst them, and the corporal of the party came quite into the room to take a nearer inspection of me, on which I asked him if he wanted anything; but receiving no reply, I told him that I was a British officer, travelling that way for my amusement, on which I saw no more of them. At Chiclana, when I arrived, preparations were making for a grand *fête*. I took up my quarters for the remainder of the day (it was forenoon when I arrived) at an hotel kept by a young Spanish woman, the widow of a Frenchman. The *fête* appeared to displease her much, and when I inquired for what purpose it was proclaimed, she said greatly chagrined, "You have been, I suppose, long enough in Spain to know that a Spaniard would go to *los infiernos* to see a bull-fight, be the occasion what it may. News has just arrived that the French have entered Tarifa, and the municipality have had the sycophancy to give a *fête* in honour of the defeat of their countrymen, and many of the low rascals you see parading so joyously in the

streets with the women, figged out in their holiday clothes, may have lost a brother, a son, a husband, or a lover, yet the bull-fight is sufficient to make them forget all their sorrows and grievances."

To Cadiz was but a short journey, and I remained here, until I could find a vessel about to sail for Lisbon.

During my stay at Cadiz, I dined one day with the British Consul, and at his table I met two French General officers, one I believe was the commandant of the French troops at Cadiz. The conversation turned upon the late siege of Tarifa and the escape of Valdez with his party by sea. I told them I had served there during a former siege, and that I thought the place anything but strong; but as this subject would have been displeasing, the French having on that occasion been well thrashed, I did not continue it.

Having found a vessel about to sail to Lisbon, I did not remain long at Cadiz. At Lisbon I found the British army had advanced up the country, and that probably I should find employment.

I was anxious to see a relative who was in command of the Rifle Corps; but my leave was nearly expired, so that I was obliged to proceed on to England. At Lisbon, I met again my travelling

companion, Shirley, who scarcely expected to meet me again, so much had the danger I had to incur in my overland trip from Gibraltar to Cadiz been magnified.

I found a great deal of excitement prevailing amongst the good people of Lisbon on the occasion of a miraculous image having been discovered by a sportsman, when out shooting rabbits, and which was said to work miracles. Whether this was the case or not, it certainly collected a number of votaries and priests, and from the number and costliness of some of the offerings, must have yielded a miraculous revenue to the shrine in the church, where it was deposited. I went on two occasions to try and get a peep at it, but the crowd who frequented the shrine was so great that I could not get near enough, without jostling them, and which from my John Bull appearance might have given offence. I was amply compensated by viewing the number of fac-similes and copies in gold, silver, brass, and wood, with which the shops in the Rue dos Ourives d'Ouro and other streets abounded.

I forget whether it was stated that any of the miraculous properties of the original image of the Virgin were infused into the copies or not, but presume from the avidity with which they were purchased, that it must have been so believed.

This image of the Virgin, I think, they call Nostra Senhora de Lapa, or our Lady of Lapa. The history of its discovery is this. The dogs of a gentleman, who was out shooting near Passo dos Arcos, chased a rabbit into its burrows, where the sportsmen prepared to dig it out, when the image, a small one of earthenware or burnt clay, was discovered near the entrance.

It was taken home, and a sick person in the house was immediately cured, as were, I don't know how many others.

This enthusiasm, I observed more particularly among the women, and it formed a striking contrast to the irreligion and even infidelity which prevailed amongst the upper classes and soi-disant patriots; so soon do we pass from one extreme to the other, from gross superstition to infidelity.

Taking the earliest opportunity, we proceeded on to England; and I immediately reported myself to the Adjutant-General at the Horse-Guards. On my telling him that I had been ordered to join the depôt at the Isle of Man, should my services not be required in Portugal, I received instructions to do so as early as possible; and this I did, after paying a short visit to my friends in Berkshire.

I found the people kind and hospitable. The depôt of the 80th Regiment had been sent over in consequence of some disputes with the Bishop (Murray) regarding the collection of his tithes; and being the first troops, in any number, which had appeared in the island, were much caressed. We had a detachment at Douglas; but the head-quarters, and with it my company, were stationed at Castletown. Three of our officers married Manx ladies; a very rare occurrence with us, as most of our married people came to us from other corps.

During the time I was at the Isle of Man, my father died. He was thrown from his gig, which my brother was driving, and never spoke afterwards; his affairs were in great disorder. I obtained leave of absence, but was too late to attend the funeral. I remained, however, some weeks, in order to render every assistance in my power to his widow and his two children. I then rejoined my company at Castletown, Isle of Man.

The depôt remained here until the spring of the year 1828, when we received orders to embark for England, and having landed at Whitehaven, we marched to occupy the barracks at Carlisle, and some months afterwards to Tynemouth, in Northumberland. After remaining here a few

weeks, the depôt was ordered to Sunderland, my company remaining at Tynemouth.

A detachment having been ordered to join the head-quarters of the regiment at Corfu, under the command of Major H——, commanding the depôt, my company was relieved, and as senior captain present, I took the command of the depôt at Sunderland.

At first, much attention was not shown us by the neighbouring gentry, but after some of the heads of families had called, I found it one of the most pleasant places I was ever in. The dinners and wines of the merchants and ship-owners were more costly; but with the families in the neighbourhood we were equally well received, although no expensive effort was made by them to make a display; all was real and unaffected kindness. There was not so much intercourse between the families living in the country and those living in the town when we first went there, but afterwards some of them became better acquainted. The family from whom I received the most marked attention (as indeed did all our officers who were desirous of cultivating the society of the neighbouring families) was that of the Rector of Whitbourne, Mr. B——.

Many officers (who on all occasions were

grumbling at the want of hospitality wherever we were quartered) did not partake of the agreeable parties, which afforded so much enjoyment; but I always found those who never went out, or seemed to care least for society, the most jealous and touchy, when not invited with the rest. Many were the agreeable pic-nics, and sketching parties to which we were invited, and at which were always present a host of young ladies. Our hostess, Mrs. B——, had two of her nieces living with her, remarkably fine young women; the youngest, wild as an untamed gazelle, kept her poor aunt in a constant state of excitement, lest some accident should befall her, and she would anxiously beg of me, not to let her go out of my sight, and entreat the young lady to be sedate.

Although she would promise to be very good and obedient, the moment her aunt's back was turned, off she would go; and reverence for my delegated authority she had none, excepting every now and then when we met during her gambols; she would approach, with affected gravity, and calling me her "dear grandpapa," would express her hope that I had enjoyed myself, as much as she had done. I used to threaten to tell her aunt of her wild freaks, "but I know you

won't," she would say, "for then you would not be dear, nice, grandpapa."

But the poor girl got into a great scrape for bestowing upon me the soubriquet of "grandpapa." I went to call one morning at Whitbourne, when, as usual, there were a great many young ladies, guests at the parsonage. J—— happened to be at the window, over the hall door; and on my rapping, some one called to her to ask who it was, when she exclaimed, "Well, I declare, it is grandpapa!" Her father, the Rector of G——, was, unperceived by her, at her elbow, and he immediately read her so severe a lecture, on the impropriety of calling any gentleman by a nickname, that she, poor girl, did not recover her spirits the remainder of the day; and although she refrained from calling me by my soubriquet, the other young ladies of the circle, ever afterwards called me by the name of J——'s grandpapa.

This fine creature afterwards married. Her husband died, leaving her with the charge of two children, and when I last heard of her, she was as excellent a mother, as she had been a good wife and wild spinster.

Serving with the depôt at Sunderland, we had three rival artists, and most of the young ladies we met at Whitbourne were tolerably proficient.

On one of our sketching parties, I counted no less than fourteen, including a professional painter. Although all drew a tolerably correct view of the scene, it was amusing to notice how much the landscape differed as interpreted by each, yet taken at the same time and under the same circumstances; no doubt, from seeing everything through the medium of different masters' eyes, under whom each had studied. One of our artists of the depôt was a humourous Scotchman, who seemed privileged on all hands to say and do everything he thought proper without giving offence; he had learnt to paint under Williams (surnamed Grecian, to distinguish him from others of the same name, also artists) and to whose principles he was as bigoted as any covenanter. He never improved, indeed it was impossible he ever should, for he would adopt no suggestion unless it had the sanction of Williams' example, whose method alone he had determined to follow, forgetting that those who follow remain behind.

The family at Whitbourne, when at a loss how to amuse the guests staying with them, frequently drove over to the barracks at Sunderland. On these occasions, our drawings were all paraded, and Williams' pupil used to act as exhibitor. With a stick he would point out in the most

ludicrous manner, the relative beauties of each drawing, and then expatiate largely on the merits of those done by himself, to the infinite amusement of the young ladies, who principally formed his audience. From thence we generally adjourned to the mess-room to luncheon. The ladies seemed much amused at our mode of life, and what they termed our dens (barrack-rooms); but they could not understand the nature of our domestic economy without female servants.

The instruction of the soldiers' children in the regimental school appeared to give the more elderly matrons great satisfaction.

Mr. B—— seldom joined these parties, indeed he was too much occupied in visiting his poor parishioners and conferring benefits upon them. Never was clergyman more liked. I was told he only once absented himself from his parish, on a tour to the continent for the benefit of his health, where he stayed a few months. On his return, the poor fishermen with their families, came out in a body to meet their beloved pastor, and his lady, and niece. They insisted on removing the horses from the carriage, and in dragging him, as it were, in triumph to the vicarage.

A curious adventure occurred on the occasion of one of my last visits to this amiable family.

With another officer I had walked over to make a morning call, and as usual, we lunched there; but in the afternoon a very heavy fall of snow took place, which prevented my return. Not so with my companion. He had wrought himself up to a belief that he was very much in love with a rich merchant's daughter at Sunderland, and his return, under such circumstances, he thought, no doubt, would have the merit of something chivalrous in her eyes; but I, having no such inducement, preferred remaining with the good company I so fortunately found myself in.

Our party consisted, besides the members of the family, of a celebrated pianist, the widow of a captain of engineers, two young ladies from Durham, sisters, exceedingly handsome, equally celebrated as vocalists; another young lady, rather plain, and supposed to be a rich heiress, from the same neighbourhood, but an accomplished harp player; and as the lady of the house was also a harp player, and very musical, we had no lack of entertainment.

Here we were all shut up, and obliged to stay for two days, and it may be believed that I was not sorry to find myself in this *dreadful situation;* but in truth we were, I think, all of us, as happy and merry as people could be; but the adventure,

to one of the party, did not end here. The rich heiress, by the desire of her family and relations, had been obliged, not only to refuse the hand of a major of cavalry, but to decline admitting him again to her presence; and yet he was a handsome man and a gallant soldier, and odd as it may seem, the identical officer who had saved me from being taken prisoner at the battle of Nivelle, when wounded by the French, as I have already stated. Well, this bold dragoon was not to be daunted, it seems, by man or woman, for having ascertained when the precious freight of herself and step-mother was to return, he waylaid them in the turnpike road, stopped the carriage, opened the carriage door, and insisted on seeing the young lady, and explaining away some report which he supposed had reached her, to his prejudice. The garrison capitulated, forgiveness followed, and they were afterwards married, and for what I know to the contrary, are now happy.

With so many temptations around me, it may be inquired how I escaped unscathed. I do not say I did—that is a secret, and shall remain so—but the vagabond life I was leading as a soldier of fortune deterred me from proposing to any woman I respected; and I have often since congratulated

myself in various critical and uncomfortable positions that I was not then a Benedict.

The Reform Bill was brought into Parliament about this time. The towns of Bishop-wear-mouth and Sunderland were to return two members, and the inhabitants were full of conjecture as to which of themselves were to be returned; but opinion inclined in favour of a rich merchant retired from business, and a clever man, a ship-builder, both men of the people; but, alas, for the independence of an extended franchise, and the purity of a democracy. When the time came, Alderman Thompson, of London, was one of those returned, and Captain G——, the other. The latter, having been proved insane, afterwards resigned.

Some little difference with the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding at head-quarters, and my declining to give up the depôt mess-funds to be controlled by a distant committee, occasioned the command of the depôt to be taken from me; but not till I had secured the funds for the purposes they were intended. I subsequently obtained leave of absence for a short period, but the depôt having been ordered to embark to join the regiment which had lately arrived at Portsmouth from the Ionian

Islands, I reported myself at head-quarters, and gave up the remainder of my leave.

After remaining a short time at Portsmouth, the regiment received orders to march to Stafford in three divisions. The largest division, consisting of four companies of the left wing, was commanded by myself, although three field officers were present with the regiment on commencing the march. This arrangement, which was said to be complimentary, I was far from being pleased with, and I accordingly applied, but without effect, for one of the majors to be sent to take the command. With the conduct of one or two officers I was far from being satisfied. The Assistant-Surgeon attached to the division, though clever in his profession, was a very unprincipled person; but perhaps the phrase may be considered harsh, for he was also certainly deranged, and yet this man contrived to remain in the service.

At Oxford, where the head-quarters were, we arrived the following day, and halted to make arrangements for the more economical conveyance of our luggage by water. Here the officers commanding companies received an advance of pay for their men; and, as there had been no time for its distribution, and some dined out with their friends they had met at College, I took charge of the

money for three out of the four companies, amounting to upwards of two hundred pounds in notes, until the officers returned. The officers of the division under my command all put up at the "Roebuck" Hotel; and shortly after I had retired to bed, in one of the attics, a cry of "fire" was heard, in the adjoining room to mine. The fire-engines and firemen, although they were quickly on the spot, could not get the fire under, for want of a supply of water; and the pipes which conveyed it up-stairs, being trodden upon and ruptured by a set of curious people and idle students, with servants, anxious to save their boxes and property in the narrow staircase, everything was soon in the greatest confusion; and the furniture of the inn, as it could no longer be taken down stairs, was thrown out of the windows.

In the midst of this disorder, one officer* had the presence of mind to place a sentry with fixed bayonet at the bottom of the stairs, with orders to allow none to pass up or down, but the firemen and those conveying water. It was a severe trial for him, for several gownsmen made their appearance, and their dignity was offended by being obstructed by an armed soldier. Both the officer, who was an ensign, and the sentry were, however,

* Lieutenant Raitt (Major, when, in 1845, he left the regiment.)

inexorable, and regardless of threats or consequences.

I ordered no part of my baggage to be removed except a small tin epaulette case, with the money I had in charge for the companies. My bed-room was now so full of smoke, that with great difficulty I reached the window without being suffocated; and, throwing open the sash, I called to the people below to get me a rope. I was recognized, and the crowd thought I wanted to descend by the aid of the rope with ladders; but such was not my object. Having succeeded in getting the end of a rope, I called to them below to make it fast; but the noise was so great, that I could not make myself understood; and they commenced throwing water from the engines at the window where I stood. I was already covered with soot and dirt, but the water coming after this—never was any poor devil in such a plight. At length I was understood, the pipe and the hose were made fast to the rope, and I immediately hauled it up, amidst the cheers of the populace, who until now had been calculating that it was impossible at that height, that I should escape. The firemen in the passage were driven back by the flames, and were on the point of retiring, when I opened the door.

The current of air from the open window at

first increased the flames, but the water I was able to bring to bear upon them soon reduced their fierceness; and, handing the hose to the firemen, and then urging those on the staircase to bring up more water, the fire was eventually got under.

The fire had originated in a room immediately opposite mine, which was occupied by a gentleman who had been a great chum of a recent visitor. In the presence of the latter, he had deposited notes intended for a certain purpose in his portmanteau, amounting to about £75, when going out to dinner; but from some cause or other, he altered his mind and returned to his room, and took the notes with him. Of this, I suppose, the visitor was not aware. He was seen by two of the chamber-maids, on this landing, where his room *was not*, with a lighted candle, and from what was known of him afterwards, I have no doubt that he entered his friend's room, cut off the lock of his friend's leather portmanteau, but not finding the cash, in order to hide his delinquency, he set fire to it and the bed-curtains, trusting that the fire would have been got under without doing further mischief beyond what he deemed necessary to hide his villany. I was the more fixed in this opinion by the firemen stating that when they opened the door of the room, the

bed was on fire; and as its occupant had gone out to dine some hours before, it must have been the work of an incendiary. The room was entirely destroyed, and an officer's sword was found below in a molten state, from the intense heat.

The inn-keeper must have been a great sufferer from the damage done to the building and furniture. The house was not habitable for some weeks afterwards; and, to crown all, he had to recompense the gentleman for his loss: being otherwise threatened with a prosecution. This person never had much baggage, nor could it be valuable, as a great part of it had been sent by canal the day before.

It seems I had made use of some very strong expressions towards two of the officers for interfering whilst I was engaged tracing the origin of the fire. The servants appeared to me to have been tampered with. The following morning I received sundry hints from the commanding officer, on the propriety of my offering some apology. This I at first pretended not to understand; but when hard pressed, I at once declared that the conduct of both officers had been so bad in this transaction, that I had only expressed my real sentiments, and could therefore retract nothing. The division next day marched to Woodstock, and I

remained a few hours at Oxford to try and persuade the Colonel to send one of the majors to take the command. I at length succeeded in obtaining a promise that one should be sent in a day or two. When I arrived at Woodstock, I received orders to convey a severe reprimand to the Ensign who had behaved so energetically in extinguishing the fire; and I have no doubt it was at the instigation of the officer, of whom, it would seem, he had expressed himself in similar terms to those I had made use of. My baggage not being considerable, and that of the company and the stores being well-regulated, I determined to bring the whole of mine with me, which proved very fortunate, as will be seen hereafter.

On our arrival at Stafford, the Major received an order to detach an efficient force to Wrexham in North Wales, that neighbourhood being reported to be in a very disturbed state; and as my company was the only one which had its baggage and stores with it, I was selected for that duty.

My two subalterns were very gentlemanly fellows. We were very glad to get away, and promised ourselves much enjoyment, in which we were not disappointed.

On arriving at Wrexham, we took a house in the suburbs and lived together. My brother

joined the party, and it was not long before we were visited by all the neighbouring gentry, who asked us to their houses, and treated us with the greatest kindness. Archery is a favourite amusement with the gentry of North Wales and Cheshire, and the Archery Club is under the patronage of royalty, by whom a prize is annually given to the best archer.

The Archery meetings are on a style of magnificence and liberality, not to be equalled in any other part of England.

When I was in North Wales, the secretary to the society was the Rector of Wrexham. He received the subscriptions, and kept a sort of roster, where the meetings were to be held, selecting the domains of such of the gentry as might be considered most eligible. At some of these, as at Eaton, the seat of Lord Grosvenor, they might be held twice in the same year. In these cases, the family generally selected the month when they would be at liberty to receive their guests, when due notice was given. There was always a general gathering of families, who took the opportunity of receiving and entertaining their guests on these occasions, and the neighbourhood was all gaiety. One of my subalterns and myself, for instance, took an opportunity of this nature, to spend a week or two with Mr. Townshend, at Ellesmere, and he

again took us to the place where the Bow meeting was to be held, some miles distant.

The society took with them dining tents, and a dinner service; but the materials for feasting were always provided by the family of the estate where the meeting was held, and a dance in the mansion afterwards followed.

The gentlemen discharged their arrows at the distance of a hundred yards from the butt, and the ladies at the distance of seventy-five yards. I noticed particularly the practice made by the latter and with a similar number of shots, few companies of infantry could have done better, or indeed so well. Those ladies who had won a prize, were restricted to one ring less for each prize they had gained, the outer circles not counting for them. Indeed some such regulation seems necessary, as I observed the same ladies gained the prize, notwithstanding, each year.

It seems an excellent institution which brings the aristocracy of the country together, in order to make them acquainted, with each other, and from what I could see, in no part of England does greater harmony prevail, or is social intercourse better understood and practised.

In the country, families generally dine early, and in the afternoon practice archery, for which purpose,

contiguous to the mansion, a hay rick, as a butt, is preserved that they may more easily find their arrows when discharged.

A curious circumstance regarding this practice, was mentioned to me by Sir Foster Cunliffe. The hay ricks selected, are those where the hay is considered of inferior quality and damaged by the wet. The one in use at his residence, had been, when got in, greatly damaged by the wet, and it remained for a number of years without being removed or examined. At length it became necessary to construct another, the site of the former being required on which to erect some buildings. When gathered in, it was found to be of extraordinary good quality, which he attributed to its great age—if so, hay cannot like, some wines, be kept too long.

On the occasion of one of my excursions to a distance of nearly fourteen miles from the station, with the Lieutenant of the company, the Deputy-Quarter-Master-General arrived. I had fortunately left a horse with orders to the ensign, who was detained in quarters sick, to send to me immediately when anything might occur, so I was not very long in making my appearance.

The official and myself had been on service in the same regiment before. I told him, "You see

that I am executing my orders very strictly, by making myself acquainted with the magistrates and gentry of the neighbourhood." He replied; "I see you are the same that you have always been, an idle graceless dog." However, I was able to report to him that the district was comparatively quiet, and that I did not anticipate any more disturbance in the neighbourhood, with which he was satisfied.

About this time, I was much pleased with an act of my brother's, which although I did not accept his services, made me feel very proud of him. He had just then inherited some property, which although a little encumbered was still valuable. On this occasion my brother declared that when it came to my turn for promotion, he would advance any money I might require for the purchase of a majority, and that no person should go over my head, and from which it was understood that I could and would purchase the step whenever an occasion might occur.

From the disturbed state of the country near Wrexham, the detachment was kept a good deal on the "qui vive," and the colliers and miners seem to have been inspired with a similar desire for mischief, with the same class at this period in South Wales, and Merthyr Tydvil.

The detachment, at the requisition of the magis-

trates, twice marched from Wrexham to Mold, in Flintshire, where serious rioting was expected to take place. The rioters having in the first instance obtained information when the troops were expected at Mold, anticipated them within twenty-four hours, and the mischief was done, and the rioting over before the detachment arrived. In the second instance, as I was empowered to call for assistance from the Depôt of the 53rd Regiment stationed at Chester, both detachments marched so as to arrive by day-break at Mold, the day before the time appointed by the magistrates, and although the scouts employed by the rioters were met with on the road, they did not again assemble; but as it was evident they would do so the moment the troops returned to their quarters, a company of the 53rd Regiment was left and ordered to occupy Mold, from whence but a few weeks before it had been withdrawn.

The Magistrates sent the following requisition:

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING WREXHAM.

"Sir,

"We deem it necessary, in consequence of information we have received, to request you will be

good enough to order a company of your regiment to this town, either this evening, or to-morrow. It is more than probable that some disturbance may occur, early on Monday morning.

"We need hardly say that the larger the force you may send, the less likely will it be that any opposition will be offered to it, and it will be most desirable to prevent any collision, if possible. This place at present is not fit to be left without a military force.

"We have the honour to remain,

"Your obedient Servants,

"T. W. EYTON,

"C. B. CLOUGH.

"Magistrates acting for the Hundred of Mold.

"Mold,

"9th July, 1831."

Mr. Eyton was a large landed proprietor in the neighbourhood. He acted a rather shy part in abandoning the district with his family, leaving the Rev. C. B. Clough in the entire charge and responsibility. The latter told me if the Government continued to refuse to station a small force at Mold as heretofore, and to neglect the frequent appeals he had made to them, he should be under

the necessity of resigning his seat on the Bench. Under ordinary circumstances he had no difficulty in acting as a magistrate, but when blood might be spilt, he was not quite so certain that it was his duty as a clergyman to act in that capacity. The reverend gentleman appeared to me to be a person of great courage and prudence. From the Major-General commanding the district, I received the following note:—

"Blythe Bowtry, July 13, 1831.

"Dear Bunbury,

"You have acted perfectly right in your communication to Major Hill, and I trust that he will have complied with your requisition; I hope that you have also communicated with Lieut.-Colonel Shaw at Manchester.

"I conclude that you will not have left any portion of your force at Mold, but according to your instructions you will march back to Wrexham, if the business upon which you were called upon for has been concluded. The magistrates must not be allowed to subdivide the troops, or we shall get into a scrape. I hope to hear from you very quickly; above all things you must remember to keep Colonel Shaw informed of what is going on. He has authority to move troops to your assistance

if they are required, and he is in daily communication with me.

"Yours truly,

"M. BOUVERIE,

"Major-General.

"To Captain Bunbury,
"80th Regiment."

"Should the magistrates insist upon troops being left at Mold, I have written to Colonel Shaw to to say that it must be a detachment from the 53rd of one captain, two subalterns, and fifty rank and file. "M. B."

At Mold I met Colonel Shaw with a detachment from the 53rd. The Government seemed apprehensive that we might sustain some disaster, for I received the most minute instructions for effecting my retreat upon Birmingham, should it occur, and to gather in all detachments on the road.

After remaining some time at Wrexham, we suddenly received a route over night to march the following morning for Blackburn, in Lancashire.

We had only time to take leave of the Rector, Mr. Cunliffe, who promised to make our excuses

to our numerous acquaintances for the suddenness of our departure.

Marching into Bolton, with order to march again during the night, so as to arrive at Blackburn before day-light, a great crowd assembled round the detachment whilst the men's billets were being distributed to them. The mob pressed so close that I was apprehensive they wanted to attempt to disarm us, and no persuasion would induce them to keep back. At length I ordered out a few files to clear the front, and taking a lesson out of Daniel O'Connell's book, I told these men to order arms, but to be sure not to hurt the gentlemen's toes. This hint was quite enough, down went the butt of each man's piece full on the feet of the bystanders, a space was soon cleared; but amidst the yells and execrations of the crowd, and I came in as a matter of course for a plentiful share of abuse. I was amused with an Irish sergeant telling the people, "Shure an' did yee's not hear the Captain tell the men not to hurt the people, but if ye will put your toes in the way, how are they to help it."

John Bull, in the midst of mischief is alive to the ridiculous, and this remark of the sergeant produced peals of laughter, and we were not further molested.

We arrived at Blackburn a little before daylight. The depôt of the 8th Foot had left the barrack a quarter of an hour before our arrival, and there was nothing to require our presence at so early an hour. The General, however, was fond of keeping the troops in his district on the alert, and making them march at the shortest notice.

During our stay at Blackburn we were a good deal noticed by the gentry residing in the neighbourhood. We liked the quarter much, and should have been very happy but for some unfortunate divisions in the regiment occasioned by the endeavour to retain in it a young officer, an exceedingly bad style of person, and to force his society upon my detachment; but if the truth was known they were afraid to bring him to a Court Martial least the over-leniency with which he had been treated might appear in the proceedings, and occasion some remarks from the highest military authorities. We were fortunate enough, however, to get rid of him quietly a few months afterwards.

In consequence of some rioting at Preston, the detachment which I commanded was ordered to move on to that town; the mob had set fire to a factory, and were proceeding to attack the gaol and release the prisoners, but received a check from the

gaoler, an old lieutenant of the navy. This gallant old veteran got a cannonade without a gun-carriage; but he so contrived it with timber, &c., that he might give them one shot without this novel carriage falling to pieces, and he loaded it with grape or old pieces of iron, nearly up to the muzzle. When the patriots were preparing to storm the outer-enclosure, he threw open the entrance gate, behind which this gun was placed, and placing himself with a lighted port-fire over the touch-hole of the gun, he declared he would fire it when the first man should enter the gate of the outer-compound.

The gun was so pointed that it would have swept the principal street, which was crowded with rioters; but these having learned that troops had been sent for, on seeing the determination of the old lieutenant, dispersed. Whilst this was going on, the prisoners who had all been secured in an inner-court, having got together some stones, amused themselves by throwing them over the wall, in the direction they supposed the lieutenant's party to be.

I remained here about three or four days, when I received orders to return to Blackburn with my own company, leaving two others at Preston.

These were also afterwards withdrawn, and the whole some time after marched to Salford barracks, where the regiment was once more assembled.

It moved again in detachments, and I remained with the head-quarters at Warrington for about three months. Here we gave balls and pic-nic parties at Haydock Lodge, at which were present a number of families.

One of the officers of my detachment here first showed symptoms of insanity, although I was before rather suspicious of him. We were travelling together to Preston on the top of a stage-coach, but, having got down to ease the horses in ascending the hill, my friend commenced expatiating very earnestly on the comparative advantages of bows and arrows over the musket and bayonet.

That a flight of arrows might throw a body of cavalry into some confusion was possible enough; but not satisfied with this assertion, he bounded across the road performing antics of so ludicrous a description that it was impossible to preserve our gravity. When we again resumed our seats on the coach, the driver and those seated in front were evidently in a state of alarm; but a retired soldier having entered upon a disputation with him on the merit of his new system of attack and

defence, he soon forgot the subject, and I was quiet for the remainder of the journey.

An awkward incident occurred to me on the occasion of some of us going out to dine with Mr. P——, a clergyman of the neigbourhood. A Colonel L—— had kindly given a seat in his carriage to this officer and myself, and I had forgotten to introduce them. He commenced a conversation by inquiring whether the Miss T——, who had been forcibly abducted was not from this part of the country. Putting my hand behind the speaker I nearly tugged off the tail of his coat, but it was of no use, I could not silence him; he next inquired if she had not subsequently married a man of fortune of the neighbourhood, and how strange it was that he should marry a girl after such an occurrence; finding it utterly impossible to check my friend's loquacity by other means, I determined to drown it, and having expatiated with great volubility and loudness on the beauties of the scenery (which, by the bye was extremely ugly), I at length succeeded in turning the current of my friend's thoughts to other subjects, but the Colonel was evidently disconcerted for the rest of the day.

The officer I mentioned as having shown other symptoms of insanity, was subsequently shut up

in the asylum at Fort Clarence, where he was unfortunately killed by a lunatic companion, on the very day our regiment marched into Chatham to embark for New South Wales. He was a very fine-looking fellow, with a good address, and married to one of the Miss Both's, a family that created a great sensation at one time in England, by giving out that they were connected with the English Royal Family. It was the youngest that married this gentleman, and at the supposed disgrace inflicted on the other sisters, by her uniting herself with a subaltern, they committed suicide by throwing themselves out of a boat on the Lake of Geneva. I have heard that they received some trifling pittance from the Royal Family as a charity, but that they were the daughters of a school-master at Geneva, and their exalted connections a mere delusion. In this instance, the family malady afflicted the husband rather than his wife. She was a very interesting looking person, but somewhat singular in her dress and manners.

CHAPTER V.

A Retired Officer's Family—The Principal of Maynooth, the Rev. Dr. Crotty and his Chaplain—Carrickfergus—Castlewellen—An Irish Fight—Goose Step—Athy—A Banshee—Whiskey Toddy—Mr. Bunbury of Moyle—Influence of the Irish Priesthood at Elections—Priestly Discipline—Dublin and Embarkation for England—Nottingham—Newstead Abbey—Duke of Sussex—General Dolbiac—Enniskillen Dragoons—Dreadful Accident to a Soldier and his Extraordinary Cure—Manchester—A Cotton Spinner and his Politics—Name Returned for the Purchase of a Majority—Strange Characters—Wigan—March to Chatham preparatory to Embarkation for New South Wales.

FROM Warrington I obtained leave of absence, and when I again rejoined the regiment, it was stationed at the Royal Barracks, Dublin. I made a very pleasant journey through part of Wales, on my way to rejoin, and stayed a day or two at Tre Maddock, with a field officer, who had retired from the service. He had a large family, and was struggling through difficulties, as a farmer, to support them; but he seemed happy and contented. He told me, with his large family, moving constantly about, he had found it very inconvenient

remaining in the service. Not so his wife, she had never ceased to regret, she told me, her barrack-room and military society. I have scarcely ever met with elderly gentlemen, fond of their ease, who do not rejoice at the change; but, strange to say, the ladies are not in general of the same opinion, and I have met many in good, well-furnished houses, and surrounded by every comfort, still associate greater happiness with those days, when they had only a small uncomfortable barrack-room. I met with this lady's son many years afterwards. He had just been shot through both ankles in one of the actions on the Sutlej. He recovered without being lamed.

In crossing over from Holyhead to Dublin, in the steamer, I met two singular characters, and as they strongly marked the class to which they belonged, I could not help particularly noticing them. They were two priests; one a vulgar, prying, insolent, low-bred Irishman, something between a chaplain and a domestic. I believe he was both. The other a very different character —evidently a travelled, well-bred, Irish gentleman; but he seemed also a priest of the Romish Church. It was to me a matter of wonder how two such opposite characters became associated together. Being very much tired and fatigued, I lay down

on one of the couches on deck, and soon fell asleep. I was some time after awoke by the elder of the two persons I have described, who apologized for disturbing me; but seeing that I was sleeping exposed to the direct rays of the sun, which under every climate are considered extremely dangerous, he hoped I would pardon him for having spoilt my nap. I could not do otherwise than enter into conversation with him, and which, from the kind manner in which he spoke, and his also remarking, "I see you belong to the army," seemed to invite. I told him his face was familiar to me, although I could not tell where I had before seen him. He thought it scarcely possible, because for some years past he had been residing at Lisbon, where he said he was head of the convent, "Dos Ingles-sinos," this at once satisfied me. When I told him I had been in the service of the late king, Don Jono VI., he seemed quite pleased, and on comparing notes, I found we were intimate with the same families. I mentioned to him that I had been presented to the king after his return from the Brazils, and my surprise at the simplicity, or rather, poverty of his establishment. He told me, in return, several anecdotes of the king, his retentive memory, and how fond he was of having a chat with those he knew, even of the lowest

condition of society. Altogether I found my new acquaintance a most intelligent and amiable person, and without any of those prejudices with which persons of *his* cloth sometimes regard those of *mine*.

He anxiously inquired what part of Ireland I was going to, and the regiment to which I belonged, and on my informing him, he replied, "Oh! then we shall not be far apart. I am Dr. Crotty, principal of the College of Maynooth. It is at this time, unfortunately a vacation, and there are few of the young men at this time at the college; but I hope you will come and see me. I shall be so delighted to show you the establishment."

When we arrived at the Post Office, Kingstown, the doctor's carriage was waiting for him, and we took leave of each other; but not before he had again entreated me to come and see him at Maynouth. The chaplain was as obsequious to me, when he saw the terms on which I was with his principal, as he had been before rude and familiar.

I have often asked myself how it happens that the Irish priest, brought up on the continent, is such a different person from many of his class trained and educated in Ireland. The one polished, urbane, and well informed; the other vulgar, pre-

judiced, ignorant, and often sensual. It is not, I presume, because they are taken from different classes of society; but it seems to me, whilst the one is brought up to consider all mankind as his brother, and those around him all profess the same sentiments and creed; the other considers half his countrymen with pity if not with hatred; and by constantly brooding over supposed grievances and injuries, is inflamed into a belief of their actual existence. Where is the Roman Catholic Hierarchy (I speak not of governments), found to endow, or even *tolerate* any sect of Christians but their own servile followers? Yet how clamourous are these young priests for that justice and toleration they never show to others! How different would be the condition of Ireland, were her people taught to be industrious, to love their neighbour, and to live in charity with all men—instead of seeking points of difference to engender political agitation, and result in murder. Ireland's priests, educated on her own soil, should first seek to advance their order, and not sow the seeds of disunion among the masses; for this conduct has hitherto brought famine and misery on their followers, and a reputation for ingratitude which closes many a hand that was before open. But where is the election, or canvas, where the Irish

priesthood have not brought their influence to bear upon their flock, not for their improvement in moral or domestic duties, but to hallo them on to violence in a cause which, after all, can but very remotely concern them.

Whilst I was at Dublin, little occurred beyond the usual routine of parades and field days. I showed Sir Edward Blakeney a collection of field evolutions for a battalion of infantry, with reference to circumstances of actual warfare, intending to have continued them for a brigade of infantry, and ultimately for a division, as practised at Dublin, but we left the station before the latter could be commanded.

On this occasion I received the following note from the Major-General:—

"Royal Barracks, 20th Sept., 1832.

"Dear Sir,

"I return you your book that you have been kind enough to allow me to peruse. I have read it with much satisfaction, particularly the remarks, which I consider to contain most useful and soldier-like information. Some of the movements, I think, will require to be reconsidered, particularly advancing as light infantry from the centre of a line and forming square from it, the column is not

left sufficiently disposable by it, and it would be better to have a column formed at full companies, either right or left in front.

"The more simply movements are done the better, and which are alone applicable to real service.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Very truly yours,

"EDWARD BLAKENEY."

Early in October the regiment sailed for Belfast. The accommodation on board of ship was most villanous; and from thence through the regimental orderly room, I sent my book to the Horse-Guards, without keeping a copy. The Adjutant-General, I was afterwards informed, ordered a strict search to be made for it, but a book with my name was not to be found.

In the Field Exercise for the Army, published in April, 1853, I thought I could discover, word for word, some passages that I had written. The double-column of sub-divisions on the centre, so much objected to by Sir Edward, became the order of the day. The advance of light infantry from the centre of the line I think he must have misunderstood: at all events it would have been an absurdity; but as I never had an opportunity of

exercising the regiment, excepting once, at Malta, where, by throwing the men out as light infantry to skirmish, as they had not been accustomed to such doings, we made a sad mess of it, I may perhaps, have made, in my theoretical cogitations, some such blunder as that alluded to.

I was immediately detached with my company to Carrickfergus, where we met with great kindness and hospitality. At the house of one of the families we used to visit, I found a very fine picture, by Sir Anthony Coypel: The Visit of Bacchus to Ariadne at the Island of Naxos. Singularly enough, I had purchased, some years before, at Malta, for Sir W. de Bathe, a picture described in the collection of the Vatican as an Albano, which, it was said, had been removed to Malta—the subject the same. These two pictures were evidently by the same hand, but differing in size and shape: that at Carrickfergus large, and of a square or oblong form; that at Malta was painted on copper oval, and much smaller; the only difference being, that the draperies of Ariadne and her attendant nymphs were of a different colour in the two pictures; and I could not be mistaken, having made a miniature copy of the central group of that at Malta, which I still retain in my possession. They were both fine pictures,

but certainly not in the style of Albano, of which painter there are now very few cabinet pictures remaining.

We had, also, excellent snipe shooting on the mountain above Carrickfergus, and my two subalterns used to hunt a good deal.

From this place my company was received with great kindness by Lord Annesley and his family, and we amused ourselves on the lake boating and fly-fishing. The district was in a very disturbed state, not altogether political, but mixed with clannish feuds. My lodging being in the market-place, on the ground-floor, I had ample opportunity of tracing the origin and progress of an Irish fight.

I can compare it to nothing excepting a flock of young turkeys basking in the sun, when suddenly one is seized with a disposition to show fight; up start the others with expanded wings, capering and pecking at all that comes in their way; the old ones not being always exempt from the warlike contagion. So it fares with the Irish peasantry. Two fellows commence by taunting each other. Up goes their shillelah, and women and children go running and screaming to separate the combatants, and men and boys to add to the uproar and confusion. No one knows or cares how the

row commenced, Pat must have a fight; it seems both meat and drink to him, and it is really wonderful, seeing the savage way in which they attack each other, how so many escape serious injury. If one fellow is beaten to the ground with a broken head, hundreds of shillelahs are instantly waving over him, some to strike, others to defend. On one occasion, I saw an old man in a towering passion, his son restraining him by holding his hands, and the old fellow trying to extricate himself, calling out all the while, "Hold me, David, you know my temper," and all this hubbub and confusion continues until the police arrive to separate them. These either get driven back by the mob (now united) to their quarters, or the mob quietly disperse, the original instigators of the row having probably left at the commencement, and no one can tell what it was about. I mentioned to the officer commanding the police, that I thought the peasantry might be gradually cured of this propensity to kick up a row, if the police were to station themselves in the market-place on the look out for those pugnacious blades who might first commence a row, and instantly form a ring as in England, and excluding all allies and auxiliaries, make them fight it out. The heads of the disturbers of the peace would then

only be broken, and that by themselves, particularly if made to fight for a bellyfull, their relatives and friends being made to look on and applaud. He told me he thought it might answer very well, but it was more than his situation was worth should he try the experiment. He would be reported as encouraging strife, instead of preventing it; but with due deference to Mr. Bright M.P. and the Anti-War Society, I think, as men will ever quarrel and fight like other animals, it would be well to make them as harmless as possible by substituting the fist for the shillelah and stiletto; and to pick up the adversary who has been knocked down, instead of allowing scores to fall upon him.

From Castlewellan we returned to Belfast, and rejoined head-quarters. Here the regiment was put through a course of drill, commencing with the goose-step. For the information of those who may not be acquainted with the more profound mysteries of military evolutions, I must explain that the goose-step is intended to preserve the utmost steadiness of body, by standing on one leg so long as the instructor may require to explain this essential object, and until you can protrude and retire the other in a satisfactory and steady manner. We have all heard of philosophy

in stones, hence it is not surprising that some profound thinking son of Mars, on contemplating an old gander on a common, standing on one leg, should have become enamoured of his military aspect, and have determined to take a lesson on this grave and important proceeding. The step has now the sanction of Her Majesty's regulations, for the evolutions of the army, only it is now called the balance-step.

My old friend and brother artist, the Scotch captain, and myself, with sundry youngsters, were in the same squad. M—— had, during the Peninsula War, been badly wounded, whilst serving with the 42nd Regiment. He was, moreover, rather stricken with years, and, whether it was from one or both these circumstances, he used frequently to give me occasion to quiz him for being rather shaky on his pins. He made, as may be supposed, but a sorry business of the goose-step, and moreover lost his temper at the young fellows laughing at him. Just as the Colonel arrived to see how the squad was getting on, "Colonel," he said, in a very serious tone, "I must leave you; this work will never do for me, I shall forward you an application for an unattached majority by purchase, which from my services I am sure I shall get." He was a great

favourite, but nothing would deter him from leaving the regiment. I even told him, before the Colonel, when the drill was over, "This day nineteen years, I commanded a regiment in action, and if I behave myself properly, and my life is spared, who knows, nineteen years hence, but I may be again at the goose-step, and yet I do not complain."

Although I did not complain, I greatly felt the loss of my old comrade, who was about to leave us; and an unnecessary slight which had been put upon me, by giving a very young man, a much junior captain to myself, the charge of a squad as instructor, because, forsooth, he was expected to purchase the next vacant majority, I felt very acutely; so much so, that I determined, even if I became a highwayman to raise the money. He should not go over my head. Some time afterwards I did purchase the majority, and from this disappointment he quitted the service.

M——, after obtaining an unattached majority, was subsequently employed in Syria, and when he finally sold out, and left the service, he was a lieutenant-colonel, and had become much my senior.

From Belfast the head-quarters marched to Nais, and I, with my company, went to Athy. I

found a troop of the 10th Hussars stationed also in the barrack, the Captain of which I had known a boy at Paris, some years before. He was now married, but did not remain long with us; his troop being suddenly ordered away.

Sailors and soldiers are proverbially superstitious, and of this I here found an instance in my men. At the gateway entering the barrack yard on the right hand side, was a building used as the hospital, and opposite to it on the other side, was the officers' quarters; the distance between both being trifling, and the passage narrow. One of our men died here, and we had several sick. From the report of the Surgeon, and by visiting the hospital, I found that the orderlies neglected the patients, and did not remain at night. On speaking to the Sergeant, I fancied I saw something mysterious in the matter, as he neither would allow or altogether deny the charge; but on pressing him further, I found the building had for years the reputation of being haunted, and that the few men who had been daring enough to keep watch had in succession fallen sick, having seen the ghost, and that he found great difficulty in getting men to take their place. The ghost, it seems, was what they call in Ireland a banshee, a female figure clothed in a white shroud, and which

made its appearance flattened against the window of the hospital. The apparition preferred moonlight to exhibit itself.

There was a stack of chimneys over the officers' quarters; and it struck me that, under certain circumstances, pale faced Cynthia might have caused that appearance by shining through them; however, I could not satisfy myself that this was the cause, for the intervals between the chimneys appeared to be parallel, and in straight lines. I, however, determined to *lay* the ghost, and communicated my intention to the Sergeant, by ordering him to clear away a portion of the barracks of which to make a hospital. I further ordered that the detachment with himself should occupy the building from which the sick men were to be removed, telling him that the banshee, or the devil, on the next visit, might fly away with the whole of them, if he thought fit, but that the sick must be cared for.

He soon returned to tell me that he had made arrangements, and there would be no further complaints, if I would allow them to stay where they were. I heard no more of ghosts or banshees: I learned that ours was not the only corps which had experienced a similar visitation at this place.

The Sovereign or Mayor of Athy treated us

with great kindness, as did the neighbouring gentry, and the Police Magistrate, Captain G——. At first I detested the smell of whiskey, but at length I became accustomed to it and to the custom of introducing it after dinner.

I should be sorry to traduce the character of Irish gentlemen, but Diogenes with his lantern might search the whole country before he could find one, who although a loyal subject in other respects would not purchase smuggled whiskey in preference to that which yields a revenue to Her Majesty; a peculiar smoky flavour is the charm of the former, which makes it so much appreciated.

The lower order of Irish females, although great romps, are proverbially chaste. An exception to this rule in the person of a frail daughter of Eve, passing throngh the town from Monstrever, where she had been to receive a stipend ordered to be paid to her yearly, attracted the attention of the priest. He found out her lodging and went to pay her a visit. After extolling the elegance of her attire, packing up at the same the most showy, he praised the beauty of her person and hair, the latter at the same time he cut off; the poor girl crying all the while, but not daring to offer any resistance. The priest then took his departure, carrying off her habiliments and finery. It so

happened however that the girl was a Protestant, of which the Holy Father was not aware, or that her father was at that moment in the town. Some mischievous fellows persuaded the latter to take out a summons against the priest on the charge of robbery. Great fun was expected in Court, and his reverence punctually made his appearance, but not so the accuser, and the charge was accordingly dismissed. It was supposed that some of the worthy father's flock had given the old gentleman a hint to make himself scarce, and he was accordingly not forthcoming, and the clothes it was presumed were returned with some trifling pecuniary compensation to the girl.

The same reverend gentleman riding through the market on his pony, observed a fellow half-drunk, shillelah in the air, calling out, "Shew me a Brunswicker." "Here is one," said the priest, opening his cloak, and producing not a crozier, but a good stout stick, a tap from which laid the drunken patriot prostrate. The fellow gathered himself up, and with his friends, endeavoured to pacify the priest, telling him, "Sure we all know your reverence is not a *rale* Brunswicker, no nor an Orangeman either."

The reverend gentleman however seemed much

respected by all; and he appears to have been a fit shepherd for such a flock.

The county at this time was in a very unsettled lawless state, and where a murder or outrage was committed, the perpetrators could never be traced or apprehended. To say that the peasantry connived at their proceedings is too mild an expression, to term them accomplices would be more correct. To repeat the enormities committed by these villains, principally strangers, would, from their seeming gratuitous nature, cause these facts to be doubted; moreover, I feel no inclination to dwell upon them, even where they have fallen under my own personal observation.

At Athy and the neighbourhood I met with a number of half-pay officers engaged in farming, and as this was a subject in which I took much interest, I made it a point of questioning whether any advantage could be derived from this pursuit, and if they could maintain their families by it. The answer was generally the same. They could farm on an extensive scale, with considerable profit, provided they could do it without molestation, and on principles best calculated to ensure success. The soil was very good and productive. The rents were moderate, and taxes little or nothing. Labour was cheap, but they could none of

them get an intelligent overseer to stay with them. If strangers, they were afraid, and intimidated. The servants seemed to be controlled by some hidden agency, and appeared to be mere spies put over them. Improved implements were broken, and all changes resisted. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that many gave up their farms, and retired with their families into towns for security and protection.

Some I met with, who were exceedingly popular with the people; but they told me it was obtained only by giving way to them and humouring their prejudices.

I was a short time afterwards with my company at Nais with the head-quarters, when the regiment again marched into Royal Barracks at Dublin, and after remaining fourteen days, we received orders to embark for England.

The regiment landed at Liverpool on the 22nd of April, and I was detached with three companies to Chester. After remaining here a very short time, I received orders direct from the General Officer commanding the district, to detach one company to Nottingham and two others to Rochdale. As there was no field officer with the detachment at Chester, and hearing that Nottingham was an excellent quarter, I detached the junior

captain with the two companies to Rochdale. I marched with my company to Nottingham, and found the 6th Dragoons stationed, and altogether I liked the quarter, though not quite so gay as some others where I had been. Colonel Wildman called upon us, and asked me over to Newstead Abbey, as the Duke of Sussex was staying there. A certain degree of etiquette and formality being necessary in the presence of a member of the Royal Family, I did not feel disposed to make his acquaintance, and for this reason did not return his call as I ought to have done. Walking one day under the Arcade in the Square with Mr. A. Beeston, a banker of the place, we were about to meet him face to face, and this I was anxious to avoid. My friend told me it was too late, and would look like a cut, and although I had been so negligent, if not rude, I determined to brave the encounter. Colonel Wildman invited Mr. and Mrs. Beeston to spend a few days with him at Newstead, and to me he said, "You seem so rivetted to Nottingham that I suppose it is useless to attempt to move you, or I would ask my friend here to give you a seat in his carriage." The other immediately assented, and I found myself in a regular fix. I did not wish to go, and therefore, told the Colonel that I was quite ashamed to meet

Mrs. Wildman, not having yet been to call there. However, he promised that all should be made right, and haying no means of escape I promised to go. I found in the Duke's equerry, an old Malta acquaintance, Lord J—— C——; he had commanded a frigate when I was there, and had subsequently served at the Havanna.

The Duke was blind, or nearly so, and when he was led into the room by Colonel and Mrs.——, I was greatly struck with his appearance. He was the most majestic looking person I ever saw. He was Royalty personified. Lady M—— accompanied him. She seemed not to excite much attention, either by her appearance or her manners.

After the ladies had retired, we congregated round the fire-place to smoke, Churchill was a great smoker, and brought a quantity of cigars with him from the Havanna. We talked over old scenes at Malta, and the Duke being at some distance, I thought we might speak with freedom. He seemed otherwise engaged, but this was not the case. I afterwards found he was paying the greatest attention, and must have been greatly amused at my perfect nonchalance. The fact, however was, from what I had heard of his Royal Highness, I had not conceived the profoundest regard for him, and therefore, neglected that ceremony and reserve to

which he must have been accustomed from others in my station.

It being the race week in Nottingham, I begged Colonel Wildman to allow me to return before the family rose the following morning, as I was afraid that my men would be playing some devilry if they found me absent; so getting a cup of coffee from the old butler at daybreak, I walked back to Nottingham.

Beeston told me afterwards, that the Duke on coming down to the breakfast-room the next morning was greatly disappointed at not finding me there, and observed to the Colonel, "That Captain appears an off-hand kind of chap; Wildman, you must get him here again." But the Captain was not to be had again, until the Duke had left Newstead Abbey. The Colonel and Mrs. Wildman were very nice people. I was shown over the Abbey, and also shown the skull of the Abbot, Lord Byron's drinking-cup, a present I think by that nobleman to his friend Colonel Wildman.

During the race week, I dined with the head of one of the banking establishments, Mr. Wright. I already knew his brothers, and here I met a stiff formal party of politicians. The Duke of Portland seemed the lion of the night, and I thought some

of the ladies took more than a becoming share in the discussions. There was nothing peculiar, either in the Duke or in his manner.

General Dolbiac having arrived for the purpose of inspecting the Dragoons, I waited on him at the hotel to know if he required a guard or an orderly sergeant, and handed him a card with the state of the detachment. I commenced at the same time apologising for not appearing in full dress, as I understood his stay would be but short I thought it better to wait on him the moment of his arrival. He declined a guard, but accepted the service of the orderly sergeant, and then coolly inquired to what regiment of the Dragoons I belonged. I told him I commanded the company of the 80th Regiment stationed there, and that I had brought a note from the Misses W—— to Miss Dolbiac. He called in his daughter, and introduced me; but pointing to the scales on my uniform, he remarked, he thought I belonged to the cavalry. I assured him, however, that the scales he objected to were strictly regulation, although a very recent change. He then apologised, not having been aware of it, and mounting his horse, left me with his daughter, saying, "As you appear to know the W——s, and my daughter will wish to hear of them, I shall leave you to her

charge." I never met with a more highly interesting creature; she had hoped to have been able to have spent a few days with the W——s, and seemed to regret not being able to see them, her father's occupations not permitting it. This young lady I heard afterwards became Duchess of Buccleugh. Her father, like myself, was a mere soldier of fortune, but a strict disciplinarian.

The Enniskillens had amongst them some red hot Orangemen; I don't recollect whether a Jocelyn or a Cole was amongst them. Dining at the mess with my two subalterns, I left early, thinking I had had enough of wine; but the other two were prevailed upon to stay, and they made what is termed "a wet night" of it. The Lieutenant was a Roman Catholic, and he got so drunk that they made him stand upon the mess-table and drink "To the glorious, pious, and immortal memory of King William," with all the et ceteras. Returning in a post-chaise, he entirely spoilt a new dress-coat, so that he was obliged to order another, which he could ill-afford. To console him, I told him it served him right for his apostacy.

A great number of females are employed at Nottingham, in the manufacture of stockings and lace. They are, in general, very handsome, and

fond of dress; but I cannot pay them the compliment I have the lower orders of Irish women.

I had an artist from Derby staying with me; we established a regular studio. I heard from him some years afterwards, when he very humourously alluded to it.

We used also occasionally to paint landscapes, the river scenery in the neighbourhood being particularly fine.

A dreadful accident happened here to one of our servants; and his recovery was one of the most extraordinary on surgical record. We all lived together in a large house two stories high, opposite the head inn in the main street; and this servant was cleaning the windows, sitting outside on the sill in the upper floor. I believe he was playing off some antics before the servant girls in an opposite house, when he missed his hold, and fell into the street, from a height of upwards of thirty feet. The surgeon in charge of the detachment, a civilian, happened to be passing in his gig when the man fell—he was immediately taken into the dining-room, when it was found that his shoulder, arm, hip, and leg were broken, and that he had received a severe cut in the head. The latter was supposed to be caused by his striking against the lintel of the window below, and which

had broken his fall. It was supposed at first that he could not recover, or if he did, that he would be a cripple for life. The military hospital at the cavalry barrack being at some distance, the sufferer was carried to the infirmary, and there treated. I had gone over that establishment some days before, and amongst other curiosities, saw a very complicated and expensive couch; which had been purchased some years before by a former surgeon. It was brought into requisition on the present occasion. The soldier was placed upon it, and strapped down without being permitted, for three months, to move his limbs, except in the presence of the surgeon; the limbs being forced up so as to correspond in length and position to those unhurt. The pain the man must have experienced in the cure must have been incessant; but he rejoined his regiment at the expiration of six months, so much recovered that a case could not be made out to obtain his discharge from the service. He continued to serve for several years afterwards, and ultimately died of apoplexy at Agra, in India. This soldier was nephew to Mr. Miles, the rich merchant and M.P. for Bristol. Another brother died at Lahore. We were a good deal annoyed afterwards by the crowd and the stage-coaches which used to stop in front of the house from

which the soldier had fallen. Shakespeare is somewhere criticised by a great author as unnatural, in introducing low buffoonery into scenes of deepest interest in his tragedies; but Shakespeare is true to nature. In the crowd which assembled when the accident occurred, was a girl with a basket of eggs on her head. These were thrown down in the crowd and broken, and immediately supposed to be the brains of the unfortunate man. Although we had them swept up, the wonderment still continued that the poor fellow should continue to live without brains.

Before leaving Nottingham, I visited the Lunatic Asylum, and witnessed several very singular cases of monomania. The service of the different wards, and the cultivation of the grounds, were executed with the utmost regularity by the patients, and these appeared to form the whole police and guard. They all seemed perfectly conscious of each other's failings, but not of their own; and on my inquiry if there was not danger of their conspiring together to effect their escape, or for any other purpose, I was told that, whenever an attempt of this nature was made, it was always a symptom of returning reason, and they were treated accordingly. The keeper or governor of the asylum kept the skulls of any remarkable lu-

natics who died in the hospital; and he said that the development of those organs which had distinguished propensities, whilst living, was most remarkable. He was an enthusiastic phrenologist; and as enthusiasm often leads to error, I was not surprised afterwards to learn that the developments in madmen frequently indicate the reverse of their actual dispositions.

Some of the patients appeared to me to be perfectly sane. It was only when the governor touched upon the subject of their illusions, that they shewed the contrary. He was, however, very averse to try the experiment, conceiving that it always retarded their cure. I only saw one maniac, and she, I was told, was a woman of good family connexions; coercion was only used when he was present, she knew his voice at a great distance, and uttered the most violent screams as he approached, although he assured me he always treated her with the greatest mildness. Some of the scenes I have witnessed made me feel sick at heart, and for several days I could not help thinking of Dean Swift, and to regret I had ever been to the Asylum.

From Nottingham, I marched with my company to Manchester, where the regiment was to remain during the assizes and election. The men

were ordered out of Manchester to be quartered in the neighbouring village; there I had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with some factory owners. The officers were quartered in a lone inn on the road side, kept by two sisters, who, in their younger days had been servants to a family in the neighbourhood. The inn was evidently resorted to chiefly by Lancashire carriers. From the skill of the sisters in the culinary art, the Road Committee held their meetings, and gave their dinners in the house; and as half the building was locked up and appropriated exclusively for these gentlemen, our accommodation was at first very indifferent. The billet-master was a shoemaker of very dirty and unprepossessing appearance, and shortly after our arrival he came to visit us, accompanied by another person of similar appearance, and manner. *Par nobile fratrum* the stranger hoped our landlady had treated us well.

The Reform Bill had just been passed, and we thought it best to be circumspect. They called the landlady, telling her to let us have everything we wanted, to open the unoccupied portion of the house for our accommodation, and to let us have any wines we might require. The stranger on taking leave said, "I suppose I shall meet you in church to-morrow, when I will introduce you to

my sisters." On inquiring who this character was. I was told he was the owner of the large cotton factory close by, near to which he lived with his two sisters. The following day we received a polite note, asking us to dinner, and I certainly was never more surprised in my life than at the style of living of these people, contrasted with what I had expected, from the coarse vulgar appearance of the owner of the house. The ladies on the wrong side of thirty; fat, well educated and lady-like; and they did the honours of the house in an easy, unaffected, simple manner. A person, very fastidious, would have said the cottage was a little too ostentatiously furnished, particularly the drawing-room; but no persons would have supposed the brother and sister to have belonged to the same family. The brother had made a large fortune by his own exertions, from small beginnings.

At this period, there was some distress in the cotton districts, many hands being out of employ. After dinner as is generally the case, when the ladies had retired, the conversation turned on that subject, and on politics. It is amusing to see how ingeniously the generality of country politicians square their ideas on public subjects with their own individual interest; and that without seeming to be aware of it. There were three gentlemen at

table besides ourselves. In politics they were all radicals, and the remedies they proposed for the relief of the starving weavers and workmen—were free trade, taxation of fundholders and requiring landlords to reduce their rents. I could not resist the temptation of inquiring how these men out of work had hitherto found employment? I was told, in the cotton manufactories. The speaker said he had been obliged to discharge a number of men, having no means of employing them. Pausing a while, and casting my eyes round the richly-furnished room, I said "You seem to be doing well here, and they tell me you built your factory yourself." He said it was true, and he thanked God that he had succeeded as well as most men.

I then jestingly asked him what he would think of a plan to make those who had exclusively prospered by the labour of those men now cast adrift, support them until they could find other employment. "You seize the moment of a sudden rise in the market to increase your establishment to meet the demand, and assemble crowds of men around you accordingly. The demand for your goods suddenly becomes less. You have made a good speculation; you again discharge your superfluous hands, and button up your breeches pockets, and then tell these men to go to the farmers, land-

holders, and men of funded property, to give them bread. Is that what you mean? What do you say to a good tax on newly-erected factories, as a check to sudden and overstrained speculations, which congregates together, and consequently demoralizes so many people of both sexes?"

It was evident that I was an aristocrat and a landowner. I told them I was neither; but I believe most of our modern patriots sent from the people, would make the essence of good government consist in protection to their own particular interest, with full liberty to dive their hands deeply into the pockets of every other class.

On my return to Manchester, I found it had now become necessary to leave the service, or purchase a Majority; for I could not bring myself to allow that particular pet captain to go over my head. Lieut.-Colonel Bunbury, of the 60th Rifles, had heard, from his son, of my dilemma; and I very opportunely received a letter from him, saying, as I had never consulted him, he could give no opinion on the expediency of my purchasing the Majority, which he understood was about to become vacant, nor did he know what my plans were; but should I wish to purchase, the agents would advance the necessary sum, and I was to communicate with them, when I might also learn

the terms. At the same time, the Military Secretary, Lord Fitzroy Somerset, by Colonel Bunbury's request, wrote to the officer commanding the regiment, to send in my name for purchase, in a supplementary return, and that he had already ascertained that the purchase-money was forthcoming at the agents.

The Lieut.-Colonel of the regiment was thunderstruck when he received this communication; and, turning round to me, he said, peevishly, "I do not know that any majority is for sale, and I never heard that you intended to purchase." I replied, "You see, however, that I do."

The captain I have alluded to was so much disgusted at not succeeding to the step, as he had expected, that he left the service. I was gazetted on the 21st November, 1834, after having completed twenty years with the rank of captain. After such a length of service, it was a bitter pill, and it was paying dearly for my whistle. All that I had in the world was little more than £600, and I had to borrow the rest to complete the purchase-money.

Being trustee to the Colonel's children, although I was told that it was not required, I insisted upon insuring my life, and requested the agents to pay the insurance. I had no other means of paying

off the debt and insurance than by saving part of my pay and pension.

In the course of a very few years, I contrived to free myself from the debt. This was the first time in my life that I owed a debt without having the means of immediately paying it; and, with the blessing of God, I hope it will be the last.

The regiment again marched to Liverpool, and I was detached, with three companies, to Wigan. The officers I had with me, on this occasion, were certainly not the élite of the corps. One fellow, an Ensign, had been expelled from the Military College. His father, a farmer in Kent, being a friend of the Duke's, he got an ensigncy in the 80th regiment; after which, for his misconduct, he was ordered to join the 55th, then in India. Before doing so, he retired, with permission to sell his commission. He managed to finger the cash before his father knew of his retirement; and we had several distressing letters from the father, to know what had become of his son. From letters he had received, he was afraid he had made away with himself. None of us knew anything about him. At length his father ascertained that he was at Cheltenham; and, as he was descending from the coach, at the 'Plough,' he discovered the hopeful youth on the point of mounting the dickey of his

phaeton with his pair of greys! The old gentleman soon pulled his son from the box; but the purchase-money of the ensigncy had been expended. He had grossly misconducted himself towards his Captain, a Brevet-Major, when two young officers of other corps were dining with us. The Brevet-Major himself was not a very choice specimen of an officer; he had been for some time a prisoner of war at Vendome; and afterwards, for a number of years, a farmer in the Midland counties of England. He was a complete buffoon; and the stories he used to tell of himself were beyond measure laughable, but not adapted for these, or any pages. At Magherafett, in the north of Ireland, when detached with his company, he had been sworn-in a magistrate, and became a very popular one with the peasantry—diving into their cottages, talking household matters to their wives and daughters, and holding the plough himself, to teach them the most approved method of turning up the land, draining, &c., &c. He was not an Irishman; but his description of those scenes, at the mess-table, were most ludicrous, without his meaning them to be so. His wife and eldest daughter carried on the business of the farm during his absence, and until the expiration of his lease.

The letters he received from the former he used to read to the youngsters, particularly when there was anything in them concerning the increase in his stock, which it would have been quite as well to have omitted. The eldest daughter, we afterwards learnt was really a very superior person, which coming from such a lineage is rather surprising.

Returning from leave of absence, by the upsetting of a coach, he broke his leg, which, accident ultimately incapacitated him from continuing in the service. When under this trial, his absurd conduct never ceased. A soldier, a servant, he had, by name Deeken, he used to call to come and rub his unfortunate leg, and then say to him, "Deeken, I believe you to be a great sinner." (The master was perhaps the greater). "I'll read to you a chapter of Jenkins' Devotions whilst you are rubbing my leg. So now pay attention."

A party of us dined one day at Lord Belcarris'. A short time before dinner was announced, a servant brought in a note addressed to Major Bunbury; and my friend being a much older-looking person than myself, the servant took it to him. The servant, before the Major could get his spectacles on, was near the door, when he called to him in a very loud voice, "Here, waiter! waiter! I say waiter! come here, this aint for me, I's a

Brummagem major," (meaning a brevet) "there bees the Major," pointing towards me with his fingers. The officers could not restrain themselves from laughing. The ladies and others in the room could not tell what to make of it; but no doubt, put it down as an ill-timed joke!

The Lieutenant I had with me at Nottingham, I had here also; he was as great a character, but in a different line. He had taken a degree of A. B. in mathematics, I believe, and was said to have passed with great credit, but assuredly without much profit. I used to cause the officers in rotation to make up the mess and wine accounts of our small party monthly, from a daily entry made by the mess-waiter; yet, with correct dates before him, he could not make it out. I joked him on his scientific knowledge, and told him, although a learned pundit, it was too much for him. He could do it easily enough he said, if there were not so many people about him; I therefore recommended him to take the papers to his own room, which being piqued he did. Here he shut himself up for several hours; in the meantime, one of the wags pasted a placard on his door, "Audit Office. None admitted but on business." Eventually, he accomplished his task, but I suspect, not without assistance. The Lieutenant had the merit at least

of being diffident of his attainments, and if we had not heard from other sources of them, I am sure they would have been observed by none. I have since found other pretentious persons, who when discovered to be empty, seem to turn upon you, and say, "Sir, I have forgotten more than you have learnt," forgetting the greater merit of those, who with small means and opportunities, accomplish objects of utility and real interest to the service, whilst they themselves with every opportunity and means neglect both.

There were one or two others with me, whose conduct in pecuniary matters did not meet my approval; but by denouncing these acts in not very measured terms, and by being backed by the approval and example of others, I eventually succeeded in placing all on a better footing.

The neighbouring families were kind and hospitable, more particularly the Balcarris's. To Lord Lindsay, who was a great book-worm, I gave some Spanish newspapers, published in the Isla de Leon, during the insurrection of Quiroga and Riego; he seemed greatly to prize them. I had occasion at Wigan to find fault with the contract bread, supplied to the troops, and was much surprised to find that the flour described in the contract is not to be had from any of the markets in England;

neither is it procurable from the mealmen. It would seem that all ground wheat undergoes a process afterwards, common to all markets. The bran and the finest flour are first extracted; the latter for pastry, and from what is termed the second and third, &c., the different kinds of bread are made with the addition of the pollard, a fine description of bran, and from some of these an imitation of the contract-bread is made, but perfectly inferior, from the sub-contractors having also their profit to make.

In order to make out my case against the baker, I was determined to find out what the contract-bread was really like; so I ordered a sergeant, a baker by trade, to purchase a sufficient quantity of wheat, take it to the mill, and not lose sight of it, until it was baked into three large loaves. One I kept for myself, one I sent to the baker, and the third was retained by the sergeant. I cannot now recollect whether even the bran was removed from the flour; but I think not. The very fine flour was not I am certain; but I never tasted more delicious bread. The sub-contractor was compelled to acknowledge the same, but fell back on the impossibility of procuring the same meal from the mealman. It however answered my purpose of explaining how inferior his bread

was to what I had a right to expect, and would have; and in consequence, we had from that day forward an improved mixture, more of the finest and sweetest description of flour being added. About this time, it was reported, that the regiment was to embark for New South Wales; but no one would believe it. We considered ourselves a crack regiment; and what regiment does not think the same of themselves? besides many of us had friends in high places, who would be sure to give us early information of such a calamity.

The Colonel wrote to the General of the district and sundry other nobs, in order to ascertain the truth of the report, and to give time to effect his retreat by leaving the regiment. But no one knew anything of the reported embarkation, except the tailors and trades-people from London. Two of the principal of these were ready to name the day we were to march to Weedon. But they were not listened to. So fine a corps could not possibly be sent on such a service. The day however arrived when we were ordered to march to Weedon. There were still hopes the route was for no further, but the two tailors still insisted that we should in a few weeks move to Chatham. They were again right, and the regiment was concen-

trated there on the 10th October, 1835. I enjoyed the march greatly. We always started at a very early hour, and breakfasted about half-way; preferring lone inns by the way-side. One of the officers rode an hour or two before in advance to give notice, and to have everything ready in time. A sergeant preceded him the day before, in order to ensure a sufficient supply of bread, cheese, butter, and rice for the men, and to report the number of officers who would breakfast. After the long walk in the keen morning air, it was wonderful to see how men and officers did eat! It seemed as if we thought it would be our last meal.

The officer we sent on (an invalid) kept walking round the table, directing the astonished waiters (generally females) to keep making buttered toast incessantly, until further orders. At last our appetites were appeased, and then came the landlady's turn to be quizzed and joked with, until the sound to fall in; and then we were soon on our way again. The dinner was a more serious concern. We were all billetted in the same hotel, and dined together. I found the officer, our *avant courier*, always ordered the landlord to have a good rattling dough for the gentlemen, and it may be

expected after that prudent direction, he did not give himself much further trouble. I think it was on this march at Tamworth, we were all asked to dine with Sir R. Peel. I did not go, but several went, and were much pleased with the reception they met with.

CHAPTER VI.

The Lieutenant-Colonelcy—Liberality of an Uncle—A West Indian Planter—Danger of following too closely Foreign customs—War-Office and the Office of Commander-in-Chief—Results of an Investigation instituted by the Secretary-at-War—Practical Jokes and Bubble Bets—Rifle Brigade and Colonel Ellis—Embarkation for New South Wales in charge of Convicts—Prisoners landed at Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land—Sir John Franklin, Governor—Voyage to Sydney.

It was evident, that the lieutenant-colonelcy of the regiment would soon become vacant, and Colonel Sir Leonard Greenwood called me to him one day to say, that he had heard that we were going to let the lieutenant-colonelcy be sold out of the regiment. He hoped, however, this was not the case, and as the command of a regiment was of the greatest importance to me, when I was going to remain in it, he would recommend strongly my purchasing, as, should the regiment be ordered to India in a year, I should be able to pay off the debt. I told him, I was not the Senior Major, but that it was true that neither of us were anxious to purchase, and for my own

part I had paid off but a small portion of the money I had borrowed for the purchase of my majority; but that I would see Major Baker, and inquire what he could do.

It so happened, that a captain, a lieutenant, and an ensign were very anxious to get their promotions. The two latter, in order to make an exchange, before they should be ordered to New South Wales; and they were ready to aid either of the Majors if they would purchase, and thus make a vacancy for them. I spoke to my colleague on the subject, but he said if they were so anxious for promotion, they must pay the whole amount of the lieutenant-colonelcy, as he still owed a portion of the money he had paid for his majority. He subsequently said he would give £500, and then £800; but they wanted £1000, and then they would make up the difference. This he declined giving. It was then proposed that I should attempt to raise that sum, which I succeeded in doing; but, as I was not particularly anxious, even with so advantageous a bargain, to involve myself still further, I told him if he felt the slightest repugnance at my going over his head, I would remain as I was; but if it was equal to him whether a stranger succeeded or myself, I would take the offer the officers had

made, to which he gladly assented, as he doubted his being able to raise even the £800.

My name was therefore returned, and the purchase money posted, and it was understood that I was to succeed; but two or three months afterwards when my colleague was to embark, his two brothers, a captain and an admiral in the navy, came to take their leave, and would not hear of my purchasing the lieutenant-colonelcy over him, on such easy terms. The Major, therefore, hastily returned to know whether I had any objection to his altering his mind; but if I had, things should remain as they were. I told him none. His name was therefore returned, and being senior, he eventually succeeded to the rank. But not without the brothers being obliged to pay up the whole regulated price, £1300, as the captain, lieutenant, and ensign, finding there were two of us in the market, withdrew the sum they had advanced to me, with whom alone they considered they had made any agreement. I did not succeed to the command of the regiment until nearly ten years afterwards; and I lost eight years seniority as lieutenant-colonel, and the command of a brigade in the Sutlej Campaign. Thus from such small causes, do such great events arise!

The first convict guard, under the Senior Major, embarked at Gravesend the 23rd of May; but he did not get the lieutenant-colonelcy until the August following. Shortly after our arrival at Chatham, an uncle of mine, a West Indian planter, residing at Wandsworth, called on me, with his son-in-law, Count de Vigny, and dined at our mess. He expressed a wish for me to become a trustee to some settlements he had made, to which I acceded; telling him that the first time I went to town I would call on him at Wandsworth to sign them. Having occasion to go to town shortly afterwards, to try and procure the £1000, for the lieutenant-colonelcy, from the same persons who had advanced me money before. I wrote to tell him when I should be at Wandsworth. But I suppose he suspected what brought me to town, for I received a reply to my note saying, if it was to procure money for the purchase of the lieutenant-colonelcy that brought me to town, he would feel much annoyed if I did not call upon him first, as he conceived it a disgrace to the family that I should be indebted to strangers for such services.

He inquired, when I saw him, what it was I required. In reply I told him my credit being good, I should be able to obtain money from the

same people who had advanced it before; but if he chose to become my security for the due payment of a £1000 I should be happy to accept it.

He would not do that, but taking down a cheque-book, he wrote me an order, payable at three day's sight on his bankers, for £1000.

It was in vain I said that cash was not immediately required, and perhaps it might not be so at all.

He said it was better that I should feel safe; adding, "You know I have nine children, and I am sure you will return the money when you are able; but if that should not be possible, thank God! I have enough for them all."

At this time he was a man of wealth, and I suppose could have given his children £10,000 each.

The amount was soon in the agents' hands, and when I afterwards found that I was not to succeed to the lieutenant-colonelcy, dreading a scene with my uncle, I, unknown to him, returned the amount to his bankers, to be placed to his credit. Some time afterwards he discovered that the amount had been repaid, and he remarked, "I think you had better have kept it a little longer, as you may still want it; but they tell me

you have returned £1010, pray what is the extra £10 for?"

I then told him that I had determined that Major B. should not occasion the employment of his money for nothing; and that I had therefore charged him, and made him pay that sum as interest for the time it was in the agent's hands.

"That," replied my relative, "was well thought of!"

I have entered very minutely into these details, as they tend to show that, although I have met with great ingratitude, nature sometimes produces a character worth a dozen mean ones, and more pleasant to contemplate also.

There were very few families in the neighbourhood of Chatham with whom I was not acquainted, and of whose hospitality I did not partake. The Commandant, Sir Leonard Greenwell, was a model bachelor for good housekeeping: vulgar profusion of dishes was not to be found at his table. Everything was well cooked and of the best description; his wines were excellent; there was no crowding of many guests; and real comfort prevailed around.

To be able to accommodate oneself to the customs of the country one is in, is said to be a proof of good breeding; but when these customs are

misunderstood, the scenes they occasion are sometimes ludicrous. I once dined with a very large party at the Barracks at Brompton, at which were present a French General, the Viscount H., his wife (a Scotch woman), and their very interesting daughter, who was then in England for the first time. The latter, thinking she was following a necessary English custom, asked every person at table to take wine with her. A Captain of Engineers, who spoke French very well, and sat between me and her, observed to me that he thought the young lady would be under the table before the cloth was withdrawn. In fact, turning towards him, she observed in French, "Your English wines are so very strong that I declare I am quite feverish, and oh!" putting her pretty hand to her forehead, "what an odious custom this is in England of having to drink wine with every gentleman at table!" The Captain explained that it was the gentlemen who craved the honour of taking wine with the ladies: a mere formality with the latter, who had only to touch the glasses with their lips. It was an old fashion, and he was happy to say, was fast disappearing from good society. The young lady took only water afterwards, and a slight head-ache was the only result, beyond learning to appreciate the difference between the light wines

of France, to which she had been accustomed, and the stronger potations with which she had been treating herself.

The Viscount, her father, afterwards dined at our mess. He had been before in England a prisoner of war. He seemed a very amiable person, and much pleased with the mess of the officers, as established in our regiments.

Every succeeding Whig administration of late years have, in their desire for innovation, been anxious to unite the office of commander-in-chief with that of the war department; but as this has also been opposed by the Duke of Wellington and every well-wisher of the army, who does not desire to see the ranks of this honourable profession filled with the creatures of political patronage; it is only on occasion of some evil doings, or the discovery of malpractices in the subordinate institutions under the management of the commander-in-chief's office, that this measure, from its general unpopularity, could be effected. Lord H. was now Secretary-at-War; and about this time a circumstance occurred at Fort Pitt, which was deemed of sufficient importance to give rise to an inquiry, which one of the senior clerks of the War office was, in the interest of the public, ordered to attend. The two commanding officers

of regiments stationed at Chatham and myself were named from the Horse Guards, to form the Court of Inquiry. For six weeks, from the hour of nine until four daily, was the valuable time of two officers whose services were required at their own orderly room taken up with this investigation.

The subject was this. A soldier of the Rifle Brigade had been for some time in the general hospital of Fort Pitt. On his recovery, he was proceeding, with other men to Chelsea, to obtain his discharge and be examined by the Board, when it so happened, that before leaving Rochester he got drunk, and was brought back to the Fort. Here he continued in hospital until his death. When a soldier is admitted into hospital, an inventory is taken, in duplicate, of his effects. These are signed by the Staff Captain and by the man himself. One is attached to his pack and placed in the general store, and the other is, I think, retained by the man. On leaving the hospital to proceed to Chelsea, the list was compared with the effects and found correct; but as he again returned to hospital, within an hour or two afterwards, his pack was again taken from him without it being considered necessary to re-inspect it, and the same inventory was attached to it as before. The soldier dying, left his effects, by will, to an hospital

orderly, a soldier of the name of Cohen. When these were taken possession of, some articles were wanting. This man made his complaint, and two or three Courts of Inquiry had been instituted in order to investigate the matter; but all that could be made of it was, that during the short time the deceased soldier was absent from the Fort, he had pawned a pair of green pantaloons which had been traced to a Jew, who declared he was not aware that they were a part of a soldier's uniform. A pair of half-boots and two pair of socks, missing articles, had no doubt been disposed of at the same time; consequently Cohen could obtain no redress.

Cohen afterwards went to Chelsea on duty with some men about to be discharged, and contriving to get away from his party, went and reported his case direct to the War Office, where I suppose they thought through his agency to detect some abuses, but instead of which in the sequel it will appear they discovered a mare's-nest.

During the course of the investigation, the clerk from the War Office wanted us to investigate and inquire into circumstances totally irrelevant to the subject for which we had been assembled. This was not permitted, but he requested that the Court might be adjourned until he could receive

further instructions from the 'Secretary-at-War. On his return from town, he produced an order for us to inquire into any subject that might be laid before us by the clerk! When it was becoming evident that no very flagrant abuses existed in the management of the institution at Fort Pitt, the clerk tried another course; and Dr. Davy, the principal medical officer was called before the Court, and a question of the following purport was put to him: "Don't you consider that an active intelligent person like Private Cohen, in an establishment of this nature, might do a great deal of good in increasing the comforts of the sick, by causing the subordinates and officers to be active and alert in the discharge of their duty?" The Doctor after taking some time to consider the answer he was to give, replied, "That he thought it possible that he might do some good."

I was boiling over with indignation at the idea that this novel kind of appointment could be introduced into the service, and wrote on a slip of paper another question to be put to the Doctor to the following purport: "Do you think that the employment of Cohen or any other person in the manner suggested would not tend to lower the character of this establishment, and that the evil to the sick, in believing that they were surrounded

by rogues instead of men of probity would not counterbalance any good to be anticipated?"

When this question was read, the clerk from the War Office got up in a great rage, and thrusting his finger under his wig, declared that he would not allow it to be put, as it was not evidence, but matter of opinion. I told him not to forget himself, and to remember that he was not a member of the Court with whom it rested to put the question or not as they might think fit. They, after some deliberation, begged of me to withdraw the question, which was done. I then requested that the former one put to Dr. Davy might be referred to and read, when the Court also declared that it was an improper one, and it was, with the Doctor's answer, expunged from the proceedings. The clerk had the effrontery to tell me that he would not forget my conduct towards him! When I was afterwards left in command of the remaining part of the regiment which had not embarked, *I did* receive from the War Office some extraordinary and contradictory censure; but there was so much littleness in the proceeding that I was advised not to notice it. The source from whence it proceeded, was indicated by the initials in the corner of the letters.

I adopted the advice, and this was fortunate, for

I had some years afterwards, in passing my public accounts, which were of a very complicated nature, a great deal of correspondence with the War Office, and I found that department extremely obliging and disposed to afford me every assistance.

The remainder of the proceedings were conducted in my quarters, and I think that I drew up the report. The Court strongly condemned the conduct of Cohen, and thus the affair ended; but not for me, I was some time afterwards named in garrison, president of a Board to prepare the discharge of this soldier Cohen.

As it was necessary that the Board should record the character of the person proposed to be discharged, with the view to his obtaining his pension or other reward, this nomination was particularly unfortunate, and I applied to Sir Leonard Greenwell, the Commandant, with great earnestness, to be excused from the duty. He would not pass me over and name another, as the Board, he said, had only to record the character as given by some other competent person. The person, unfortunately, was the Staff-Captain who had been the subject of the soldier's persecution, and he, as may be supposed, stated to the Board that the man's conduct had been bad, and that he was a man of a litigious and troublesome character. The proceed-

ings of the Board met with the Secretary-at-War's decided disapproval. The Court was re-assembled several times, but adhered to their original opinion. The Commandant, I believe, at the earnest suggestion of the Adjutant-General wished us, if possible, to give the man a good character, but in vain—so at length, Sir Leonard, in despair, signed the papers, and gave the man a character—"Good."

I have understood, that at this period, Lord Hill was with great difficulty prevailed upon to retain the office of Commander-in-Chief, being anxious for retirement and a country life in Shropshire. With any other chief, the command, with a little intrigue, would have been made to verge into the office of the Secretary-at-War. A scene has been described to me, in which, that even-tempered, high-minded, meritorious nobleman, the then Secretary-at-War, foaming with rage, was proceeding along the corridor of the Commander-in-Chief's office, about to lay his complaint before Lord Hill of the insubordination, as he was pleased to term the conduct of the Board. Probably had he done so, the Commander-in-Chief would, in disgust have resigned. His lordship was, however, fortunately met by the Adjutant-General, who contrived to appease him and divert him from his purpose. The Secretary-at-War did not seem to

relish being convinced that the abuses found out by the inquiry at Fort Pitt, were few and trivial, and he accordingly increased the establishment there, which no application from the military authorities could otherwise have prevailed on him to do. Until then, the establishment at Fort Pitt had been under the superintendence of the officer commanding at Chatham; and a Staff Captain and one sergeant to assist him, performed the duties in detail. He certainly had no sinecure, and although not very clear-headed, by long practice he got through an immensity of work which might have overwhelmed any other less plodding character.

When the regiment commenced embarking for New South Wales, I wrote to my old friend, Brigade-Major Colonel Snodgrass, who was now acting for the governor of that colony, and also commander-in-chief, to say how glad I should be to find some employment there which would give me something in addition to my pay; and I afterwards found that he destined me for an appointment which would have answered very well to have assisted me in payment of my debt for the majority; but of this more hereafter.

During the time I was at Chatham, we had one of the most extraordinary gales of wind I ever

witnessed. The roofs of the sheds, under which some immense line of battle ships were being built, were carried into the air to a great height, and lodged entire at a considerable distance from their original position, having the appearance of an immense parachute. Part of the strong stone palisade at the barracks at Brompton, and on the bridge at Rochester were displaced and thrown down. What made it more remarkable was the weight and little surface they presented to the wind.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, with the Princess Victoria, were delayed in consequence a day at the hotel at Rochester. In the evening Colonel Conrad sent for the band of the 80th Regiment, and they played several pieces of music before the royal party. The band of the 80th was a very good one, but certainly not equal to that of the Marines. The latter corps was therefore much piqued at the preference shown to our regiment.

I amused myself a good deal at Chatham, painting portraits in oil, of which I did a great number, that of Sir Leonard Greenwell amongst others. I have seen some of them since. The likenesses were good, but I am not disposed to think very favourably of the colouring, which was

very feeble, and seemed to have faded. In point of fact I had soared beyond my strength, but the portraits attracted a number of visitors to my quarters, anxious to see what new subject I had on my easel.

Some practical jokes, the results of bets made with one of the lieutenants, caused much merriment. A Captain engaged to carry the Lieutenant on his back to Rochester if he was not ashamed thus to ride for that distance; to start from the mess-house. At the time appointed a large party assembled, but the Captain declared that he would not carry the Lieutenant's heavy boots and coat, as it was not in the agreement; in fact the other was to strip, and ride like another Lady Godiva, "*in puris naturalibus.*" After a deal of consultation, it was proposed that he should be allowed to retain his under garment, and he prepared himself accordingly. At this moment I passed the back window, on my way to the mess-house. All pretended to be in the greatest consternation. Seizing the scattered garments, they rushed out of the mess-room upstairs, and whilst the unfortunate Lieutenant was looking after his inexpressibles, these had been taken away by the Adjutant, and in the hurry to effect his retreat, he locked the mess-room door, so as to preclude the

possibility of the breechless wight following them. When I entered, there he stood in his shirt, looking as foolish as need be, and unable to give any account of himself, or of his appearance in that state in the mess-room. He then followed the pretended panic-stricken party upstairs, but it was some time before he could get his garments from them.

A day or two afterwards, the Captain proposed to bet that he would, without touching the person, by the use of some mysterious word oblige another to loosen his hold of a bannister before he repeated the order three times. This was declared impossible by all, and the same Lieutenant who had recently joined the regiment, was persuaded that this would be a favourable opportunity to avenge himself by taking the bet, and his hands were placed in a particular position. The command was given twice, but the deluded wretch might have waited until now for the command to be given a third time; and therefore rather than remain where he was any longer, he was glad of his own accord to leave his position before he received the order the third time.

All these bets were for wine to be drank at the mess-table at the expense of the loser, and I think

we were thus supplied for nearly a week, besides being afforded a good deal of merriment.

The head-quarters and colours of the regiment, the band, and mess establishment embarked on the 26th July, under the command of the Senior Captain, for New South Wales. The Lieutenant-Colonel had exchanged. His successor had sold out, and this made Major Baker, then in New South Wales, Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment. I remained till the last at Chatham, having charge of the remainder of the troops to be embarked for that colony.

The Rifle brigade were quartered at Chatham during this period. The Lieutenant-Colonel was a very eccentric character; he had heard of a square three deep, which I was in the habit of practising with four companies, and seeing me leaning over the railing of the terrace, whilst he was drilling his battalion, he called to me to come down and explain to him how it was done. As he was a person not to be denied, I was obliged to descend and show him, for which purpose he insisted on my taking the command, and giving the word of command myself; rather a novel proceeding with a corps to which I did not belong, and I fancy some of the officers thought so also. I had practised this manœuvre many years before

when in the Portuguese service; but as I have seen its discovery claimed as recent in different military periodicals, by at least half-a-dozen people, I need here give no explanation.

I went frequently to spend a few days at Wandsworth with my uncle's family, and on one of these occasions I was presented with a valuable silver tea and coffee service, and a plate chest. This kind friend died the following year. I heard of the melancholy event when I had been some months in Sydney.

I embarked with the last draft of the 80th, and which sailed from Portsmouth on the 5th of August, 1837, in charge of convicts. It was really distressing to witness the parting scenes of some of the prisoners with their families, and I was surprised at the number of respectable looking people among them, both male and female. Many of the convicts, I have no doubt, were men brought up with good prospects, and well educated, but were reduced by their vicious habits to their present degradation and misery.

Our party, at the cuddy table, consisted of Colonel Hope, on his way out to take the command of the 21st, or N.B. Fusiliers, at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, Mr. Barrow, son of the Secretary of the Admiralty of that name,

to seek employment, Quarter-master Hayes of the 80th, in charge of the guard, the commander of the vessel, and the doctor. We had no ladies on board with us. One or two sensible women would have imposed a certain etiquette, and given a tone to the society; more I have always found a great nuisance. Ladies generally quarrel with each other, particularly where there are children, and set the gentlemen together by the ears. One spoilt child, mamma's darling pet, would make a society of the best-tempered people in the world unhappy. But this is not always necessary when people are shut up together in so small a space as a ship; if a flaw happens to be in any of their tempers it will here show itself. After three or four days' contrary wind, a passenger early in the morning goes upon deck. His first question is, "How is the wind?" "Still foul, Sir." He finds they have made no way during the night, and when this news is conveyed to the gaping audience below, ill-humour is visible in every countenance, and it is well if it does not show itself before breakfast is announced by some violent ebullition. From my own feeling I should say that eating is the greatest enjoyment on board a ship, and from the anxiety with which the hour of assembling for this purpose is expected, the same

feeling actuates, I should say, many others. Perhaps with all of us, this is more in the prospect of occupation, and the break it occasions in the monotony of the days at sea. People cannot always be reading, and I confess that at sea I feel less inclination than when on shore.

The following injurious custom exists in many vessels. At twelve o'clock the master and the mates descend into the cuddy. Spirits and water are then introduced, with biscuits, &c. Most young men, from idleness, join in these potations. They are not thirsty, and perhaps have never tasted a glass of grog before. Yet, with the aid of a cigar, it soon becomes as necessary to them as to the officers of the ship. At night, before retiring to bed, this is repeated, and the maudlin conviviality and conversation about nothing which it gives rise to, soon become agreeable, and I have little doubt that in this way are laid the seeds of those intemperate habits which have, on some occasions, developed themselves amongst our officers serving in the colonies.

Our party on the way out was, fortunately, an harmonious one. We had no bickerings or evils of our own creating, but suffered others which we could not avoid. The first mate, who should never have been permitted to embark, died within a few

days of our departure; and had anything happened to the Captain, we should have been without mate, sailor, passenger, or prisoner, competent to conduct the ship on our long voyage. We had some stormy weather, and as the Commander had no person he could trust to take charge of the vessel, his chair was brought on the quarter-deck, and this he hardly for a moment quitted during several days that the gale lasted. The weather was also very wet; but we could not prevail upon him to come below to change his clothes and take an hour's nap. We were beginning to be apprehensive that his anxiety might bring on some illness, when, fortunately, the gale subsided, and a prolonged nap restored him to himself. I never saw a man undergo fatigue and anxiety with so much impunity. My cabin, being leaky, let in a deal of water; but I remained in excellent health, and it would have been a pity had I not experienced some of the inconveniences of the voyage.

Our surgeon, with the exception of short intervals for a few days, was confined by illness to his bed the whole voyage. Yet the poor fellow had his patients brought to his bedside, and equalled the Captain in the zeal and anxiety with which he did his duty. He was more than once on the point of death, and was landed at Hobart Town in a

very weakly state; but before I left that place he had completely recovered.

We did not touch at any port on our way out, and only sighted Porto Santo and the Island of Madeira. The latter island was enveloped in a dense mass of clouds as we passed, through which the sun occasionally gleamed. I have scarcely seen any view rendered more sublime and majestic by these causes. I made a hasty sketch of the effect as we passed; a solitary vessel lying at anchor visible through a gleam of sunshine adding much to the calm and mysterious repose of the whole landscape.

Few incidents occurred to relieve the monotony of the voyage, beyond the cruel sport of fishing for Cape pigeons and albatross. One man fell overboard. The sea was running high at the time, and the vessel going right before the wind, so there appeared to be no chance of saving him; notwithstanding which, the sails were immediately backed, and a boat was lowered; but the waves ran so high that those in the boat could not obtain a glimpse of him. Fortunately the Captain, with great presence of mind, ran up to the mast-head. The albatross and other birds we had been so cruelly endeavouring to entrap had all, when the man fell, left the ship, and, directed by these

which still were congregated together, although at a great distance from the vessel, he signalled to the men in the boat, which way they were to pull. After some time they discovered the object of their search. A chair, or something from the deck when the sailor fell, had been thrown after him, and this he had contrived to reach; but he was nearly exhausted when taken into the boat. It seems the sailor was an excellent swimmer, but knowing, as he must have done, the little chance there was of his being saved, strange to say, he was, according to his own statement, more alarmed at the daring of the huge birds around him, which were every instant threatening to attack him, than at the chance of being drowned, from which he was saved by the birds indicating his whereabout. Previous to this, the fellow's character had been very bad. He had served in the Spanish Legion, and had lost an eye. On board he had been very troublesome, being what is termed a sea-lawyer; but during the remainder of the voyage he conducted himself very well.

We sighted Van Diemen's Land on the ninety-third day after our departure from Portsmouth; and two days afterwards anchored in front of Hobart Town. The passengers and surplus stores having been landed, an officer came on board to

ascertain the trades of the prisoners, and to tell them off to some employment. He did not at all take their own words as a sufficient guarantee of their acquirements, but questioned each on some knotty point of their alleged professions. A shepherd, for example, he would ask how he would treat ewes when lambing, under a variety of circumstances. For farm-servants he had something equally pithy regarding ploughing and other agricultural employments, making notes of their respective acquirements, in order that they might be sent in rotation to their future masters. We had had on board a very idle convict, who attended the sick, and had been nearly flogged for misconduct. He was transported for forgery, and was suspected of the murder of his sister-in-law, Miss A., having first insured her life for a considerable sum at different offices. This fellow, who was known at one time to have been in possession of an income of £6,000 a year, when questioned as to his capabilities, said he could drive four-in-hand; but, as such an accomplishment was not required in a penal colony, he was sent on government employ to the roads. This and another prisoner, whom we found the most useful, respectful man in the ship, were, I suspect, so employed by the especial orders of the Home Government. The

crimes for which convicts are transported are never made public; and if we are to believe their own stories, they have each of them been unjustly condemned. I have never met with one who was not, on his own showing, either entirely innocent, or else had been transported for some trifling offence, which did not deserve so severe a punishment. Yet they had left their country at their country's expense, and for their country's good.

Before these worthies were landed, they were also visited by a clergyman, who addressed them in the most feeling manner—pointing out how much their future comfort would depend upon their own conduct, and that they might, by assiduity and honesty, obtain a competence and the restoration of their rights as citizens; whilst a contrary conduct would cause them much misery. He also addressed them on spiritual matters, and some appeared much affected; but the greater part had ears and yet heard not.

The prisoners were then landed and marched to the gaol, where, after undergoing sundry ablutions and purifications, they were again, previous to their departure to their different stations, clothed, and paraded before the Governor, Sir John Franklin, who also addressed them in a very sensible

speech regarding what would be the consequences if they misconducted themselves.

The guard did not disembark, but remained at Hobart Town nearly a fortnight, on board. I made several excursions on foot in the neighbourhood, and visited the prison and the Female Penitentiary. If we may judge from the cells (the most solitary and darkest I have seen, even for men), I should say that the "Fortiter in re," is as necessary for them as for the lords of the creation. The matron and the governor of the gaol at Hobart Town (Captain Gunn) accompanied us through the several wards where the women were employed, some at hard labour. One interesting looking girl, Captain Gunn told me, had, to his own knowledge, been out in service four different times, but had always, after a few months, been returned to the factory for correction. She was now employed in the interesting labour of pounding hemp, at which she would probably be retained, and on short commons, for the remainder of her sentence. Another, a very fine-looking woman, in the pride of form and beauty, had thrown away her bodice; but the eagle eye of the matron soon detected this piece of vanity—the want of the under, and to the poor girl unnecessary extra garment, and ordered her to

be confined on bread and water. For a male prisoner I should have pleaded for pardon for so trifling an offence; but with the matron I knew it would only occasion the punishment being doubled; and there was no lady with the party to whom I could make an appeal to intercede in the girl's behalf. I forbore. I daresay the next time that gentlemen came to visit the factory, she would be less anxious to excite admiration.

Other passengers having come on board, we proceeded on our voyage to Sydney, and on passing Bass's Straits we had some thick and stormy weather. As we had not seen the sun for some days we could not, from the strength of the currents, tell exactly where we were, and we were not a little apprehensive that the ship, which being in ballast was very light and unmanageable, might drift on a dangerous shoal, called Long Beach, where many vessels had been wrecked. Our complement of seamen was also very scanty; but one of the gentleman passengers, a fine active seaman, well acquainted with the coast, proved a host in himself. He was on his return to his property, in the interior of New South Wales, with the view of selling off and migrating with his wife and children to Port Philip, for which purpose, some months

afterwards he chartered a schooner, but neither he or his family or the schooner were ever afterwards heard of. It was supposed that he had been wrecked on the same Long Beach he had been so active in saving us from drifting upon.

CHAPTER VII.

Quartered at Windsor—Illawarra, or the District of the Five Islands—Snakes—Employment of the Troops in New South Wales—Effects upon their Discipline—Interview with the Commander-in-Chief, Sir M. O'Connell, and with Sir G. Gipps, the Governor—Appointed Superintendant of the Penal Settlement at Norfolk Island, with orders to proceed there by the first opportunity—Treatment by the Authorities, and by my predecessor—Estimates of probable expenditure—Condition of the Penal Settlement—Government House—Invalids cured The Phernium Tenax Manufactory taught by a New Zealand woman—Instructions to the Superintendant of Agriculture—Nature of Punishments—Selos—The Whaling Skipper and his Wife—Ministers of Religion—Extraordinary robbery and its discovery by an Apparition—Trial—Reclaimed Convict and his ultimate Fate under the Social System—The Surgeon of the Establishment—His Vices and Pursuits.

We arrived at Sydney on the 23rd day of December, and I lost no time in calling upon my old friend, Colonel Snodgrass, who was at this time Acting Governor and commanding the troops. He told me that he had an appointment in view for me, which he thought would suit me exactly, the salary would be £300 per annum, the best

paid military appointment in the colony. It was no other than the command of the Penal Settlement at Norfolk Island, and would be vacant when one half of the guard, then on the Island, of the 50th regiment should be relieved by the 80th. He, however, subsequently told me that the Governor, Sir G. Gipps, being daily expected in the Colony, he thought it would be acting with more delicacy not to name me until his arrival, when he would recommend me for the appointment, which had always been held by the senior military officer of the regiment, which furnished the guard. This I thought was quite reasonable, and three days afterwards I proceeded to join my regiment at Windsor. It would have been inconsistent with my plans of economy to have lived in any other than the most retired manner, consequently I was little acquainted with the families in the neighbourhood, who usually entertained the officers. Shooting became my principal amusement. I made two excursions on duty into the interior. The first was to Seventeen Mile Hollow, where we had a small detachment with an officer in charge of a road gang. Hitherto, what I had seen of the country was exceedingly monotonous; roads straight, trees evergreen, and shedding annually their bark, little diversity of foliage, one tree

nodding at another, little water, no rocks. Population very limited.

About Windsor, when the soil is not alluvial from the over-flowing of the Hawkesbury river, it is light and sandy. The river having worn itself a deep bed, its waters can seldom be applied to irrigate the land. It is therefore strange in a country where want of water is so severely felt that no attempts have been made by the settlers, when building their houses, to form tanks to collect rain water, as in Spain, Portugal, and Italy, to which the climate is very similar. Honest John Bull with all his information, is slow even in the Colonies to adopt the practices of other countries. The fact that the inhabitants of Cadiz, Valetta, and latterly Gibraltar, are almost entirely dependent on the rain water they can collect for their own use, and that of the fleets which water there, seems to be entirely overlooked. Near Liverpool, New South Wales, a dam has been constructed which prevents the tide ascending—the upper part of the water-fall forming a reservoir of fresh water. At Campbell Town, from the quantity of nitre below the surface, the water was bad and brackish. A reservoir has also here been found which collects the water from the surface.

The scenery at Illawarra, or the district of the

five islands is very different from any I had before seen in New South Wales. Not far from Appin we passed the deep bed of a mountain torrent, the descent to which is impracticable for carriages; at least they must first be taken to pieces. The river here when there has been much rain cannot be forded, and is at all times dangerous. It was therefore proposed to erect a suspension bridge, but it has not been commenced from want of funds, and there is something extremely ridiculous in seeing the magnificent turnpike road in beautiful order from Sydney, terminating abruptly at a cliff from whence further progress is impossible.

Having passed this romantic mountain torrent, the road for several miles is as dreary and monotonous as can well be imagined, when suddenly, from the elevated range of hills through which the road passes, one of the most splendid views I ever witnessed bursts upon the sight. Beneath your feet lays the plain of Illawarra with its town and lake, studded with farms and watered by a meandering river. In the distance, are the sea with the five islands from which the district takes its name. The foreground is the boldest and most picturesque imaginable. Scattered about are enormous trees with varied foliage. Here and there palms rise to an immense height without a branch, until at the

top you see their wide-spreading leaves resembling those of the cocoa-nut tree. Nor is the underwood with its varieties of creepers, vines, and flowering plants less beautiful. Deep and gloomy dells, and chasms thickly wooded, border one side of the road. On the other is a bold projecting rock, from which water issues in petty cascades, and crossing the road under arches constructed for the purpose, falls in the gloom below.

I had selected a site from whence to sketch the details of one or two of these scenes. On my return from executing the duty on which I had been sent, I started from Illawarra on foot to ascend this lofty ride, desiring the man in charge of the horses to follow some hours later. On arriving within a quarter of a mile of the first site I had selected, a huge dark-coloured snake lay stretched across the road, where it seemed he had been enjoying himself in the dust. Having my sword with me, after some hesitation I resolved to do battle, yet cooling down a little, as I approached, I thought of Falstaff's doctrine, where that worthy knight declares that "discretion is the better part of valour." This conviction now prompted me to try Bob Acre's safer plan of a long shot; so I commenced seeking about for a stone to hurl at mine enemy, and to clear the passage, but I was some-

time before I could find one to answer my purpose, and when I had returned the foe had retreated. You may be sure that I did not look after him, partly because I had already lost too much time, and partly from a want of pluck. The man with the horses came up sooner than I expected or desired, and by him I was informed that a snake similar to the one I described, had been for the last fortnight seen at the same place by people passing, and although he might easily have been killed by a person practised in these matters, even with a gig whip, yet it was extremely dangerous to those unaccustomed, as these snakes are very venomous and can dart backwards or forwards to a considerable distance.

On the arrival of Sir George Gipps, the newly appointed governor of New South Wales, I was duly recommended, and my name was notified to the Regiment as the officer to succeed to the command in Norfolk Island, but guard after guard of the 80th left Sydney without my being called upon to embark.

From the two journeys I had made on duty, and from conversations with officers, I had an opportunity of noticing the effects produced by the manner in which the troops were employed in New South Wales, in guarding convicts. It is difficult to

conceive any employment more calculated to destroy the discipline of a corps. Here, in succession, as the vessels arrive from Europe with convicts, the guard, generally composed of young soldiers, is sent into the interior in charge of road gangs, without ever having seen or been seen by the major part of the officers of their regiment.

These guards, with few exceptions, are commanded by young officers without experience, and who from the want of other sources of amusement, gladly avail themselves of the society of such of the settlers as casually fall in their way, and insensibly acquire their habits. Intemperance, the bane of the British Army in New South Wales, is painfully prevalent. Nor are the officers, I am sorry to say, exempt from this vice. The number of promising youths thus prematurely lost to the service and their families would exceed all belief, were these facts not attested by every regiment which has in succession served in that country.

The mounted police, formed by selecting the most active and well-conducted men from the regiments serving in the Colony, although a useful and very necessary body of men, was considered a great evil by regiments which lost the services of good men who had so enlisted. These men

might for misconduct be returned to their corps, otherwise their appointment was permanent.

The 80th Regiment furnished fifty-six men for this service.

The new Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Sir M. O'Connell having arrived, I lost no time in informing him of the manner in which I had been prevented from joining the detachment of my regiment stationed at Norfolk Island, in order to suit the convenience of an officer of the 50th Regiment. The appointment of commandant of that Penal settlement, although nominally in the gift of the Governor-General of Australia, was in reality attached to the command of the field-officer, whose regiment did duty on the island. I would have foregone the appointment willingly, but I was very reluctant at being made, against my will, the instrument of perverting the custom of the service to suit the private views of any one. The General had been to see some property of his in the neighbourhood of Windsor, and on his return to Sydney was to spend a few days with the Governor at his country residence at Parramatta. He told me that I should go with him and his family to Parramatta, when he would have much pleasure in introducing me to the Governor. Our interview was anything but satisfactory; I was

received by his Excellency with a great deal of haughtiness and petulance. This, I believe, I bore with much nonchalance.

His Excellency began by stating that my being patronized by Colonel Snodgrass was no reason why he should provide for me. I replied that the connection between us was honourable to both. We had served together in the Peninsular war, in the same brigade, and although Colonel Snodgrass would no doubt have rejoiced had he been able to assist me, he was too high-minded to think of doing so at the expense of the service, or of any officer more justly entitled to the appointment. His Excellency then said, "The appointment is in my gift, and if I am to be thwarted in this way I will appoint a civilian to superintend the convicts." I replied I was not there to dictate to him, nor did I care whether he preferred a civilian to a military man or not; neither had I come to seek his patronage on the present occasion, or had I ever done so; I merely required not to be made a mere instrument of any one.

We parted with the mutual dislike greatly increased. He told me, however, that he was about to return to Sydney, when I was to see him again at Government House, and the matter should be inquired into and decided. Sir M.

O'Connell was also there with a part of his staff. The Governor, however, would not see me; and at length, after my being kept some time in the ante-room, the Brigade-Major came to inform me that I was to succeed to the appointment and join it immediately.

He then took me to the Colonial Office to desire the Under-Secretary to make out my commission. The latter seemed greatly surprised, and would scarcely credit it until the Brigade-Major assured him he was sent by the orders of the Governor. He then quaintly observed, "Well, it is very strange," and seemed as much disconcerted as even the Major could have been had he been present.

I was afterwards sworn in a magistrate at the Court-House, and the last detachment from the regiment which would make the island now totally of the corps being ready, I embarked with it on the 7th of February, 1839.

I received no information from the Colonial Government before leaving Sydney, beyond the usual instructions to take over the civil charge of the settlement; and in a postscript to the letter was written, that probably circumstances might render it necessary that Major A—— should remain some time longer in the island, as he had applied to the

military authorities to that effect. As it was known that Mrs. A—— was in a delicate state of health, I made up my mind to allow them to continue at Government House, and conceived that this was all that was meant. However, in the sequel I found that I had been deceived.

I had for some time been employing myself in acquiring a knowledge of the agricultural capabilities of the island, its roads, the mills and other means of grinding corn, its prisons, cattle, &c.; but had refrained from pushing my inquiries into the police court, or commandant's office for the reasons I have before stated. I found the expenses of the establishment the preceding year as estimated by a competent person, to have been nearly as follows:

	£	s	d
Yearly charges, military and staff	4796	6	7
Salaries, &c. of the civil list .	1697	17	6
Convict clothing and utensils .	3150	0	0
Engineer's stores, &c. . .	1500	0	0
Transport	2500	0	0
Commissariat department .	19,333	4	11
Total Annual,	£32,977	9	0

My first acquaintance with the Major was on meeting him at Norfolk Island. From the force

of long habit he had brought himself to believe that he was necessary to the well-being of the establishment of which he was at the head, and what was more, he had contrived to make the authorities at Sydney think so also.

The foregoing estimates being only made for 1300 prisoners and on my arrival there were 1400 and upwards on the island, besides the extensive works ordered, it is supposed the expense this year would be little short of £40,000. At this period, the value of the produce of the island might be estimated at £2,200 per annum for maize, peas, oatmeal, salt, offal, fat, maize screenings, and candles, which would leave the cost of the establishment about £37,800 per annum.

The Indian corn or maize yielded two crops per annum. When put into the commissariat magazines it generally weighed about sixty pounds per bushel, but it was soon reduced in weight to thirty pounds per bushel by an insect, besides the quality being greatly deteriorated.

The iron hand-mills for grinding corn cost Government a great outlay every year, as the prisoners found it to their interest to spoil them, in order that the corn might be sent to Sydney to be ground. The crank-mill in the same manner took double the necessary number of men to work

it. By sudden jerks on one particular part, whilst at other points no mechanical effort was used, they would strain the machinery and soon render it unserviceable. This mill was constantly under repairs, and was consequently frequently out of work. There was also a great deficiency of water to supply the dam of a mill, which, had it been properly constructed, would have sufficed to grind corn for the whole settlement. As it was, it could only be worked a few hours each day, excepting after very heavy falls of rain. The water-course also was most ingeniously contrived so as to be as inefficient as possible. The roads were in general good and in a proper direction. There were one or two exceptions where they had been cut at great expense of labour, but led to no more useful place than some rustic summer-house erected for the better enjoyment of the scenery. The agricultural department, if the intention was merely to provide employment for the prisoners was well conducted; but the profitable employment of labour was little taken into consideration. The use of the plough was not allowed, everything was to be performed by manual labour. A great quantity of the Phormium tenax, or New Zealand flax, was growing on the island, but its use was not known, or the method of its manufacture into

hemp. It had been introduced into the island some years before, when two New Zealanders, one a warrior, the other a priest, had been kidnapped to teach the prisoners to manufacture it; but they knew, or pretended to know nothing of the matter —with them such things are left to the women. After some time, these men were therefore sent back to their native country.

In my daily rides I noted down very minutely such objects as I conceived would require alteration, and from these prepared a report to the Colonial Secretary, giving it as my decided opinion that the island might, in a few years, be made to pay its own expenses, but that no limit should be set to the cultivation of any articles to which the soil and climate promised success. I excepted tobacco, for this was issued as a ration and reward for good conduct to certain prisoners; and to limit the receipt of this, it was necessary that its introduction from Sydney should have effect through the commissariat, and that none should be grown on the island.

A number of men being employed by the engineer department in building a new prison and in reconstructing the pier at the settlement, few men remained to be employed by the Superintendent of Agriculture. I therefore recommended the

immediate abolition of the existing regulation, restricting the use of ploughs and other instruments, spade culture requiring more hands than were available. A vessel having arrived with stores for the engineer and commissariat departments, I took the opportunity of her return to Sydney to forward by her my report.

On the arrival at Hobart Town of the next brig with convicts, came an order desiring the Major to give up the charge, which he did the day of her arrival.

Before this took place, in one of my excursions, exploring the interior of the island, accompanied by Lieutenant L., of the Engineers, we lost our way by getting entangled in some very high fern, from which we, after a great deal of toil, found it impossible to extricate ourselves. My friend bore the matter very philosophically, observing that he was quite tired, and that the best thing we could do would be to remain there all night, consoling himself with the idea that he had with him plenty of cigars. This was but poor consolation to me, as I was but an indifferent smoker, and began to feel the want of my dinner; so I urged him on towards a tree, by climbing which we could get some idea of our whereabouts. Each in succession took the lead, throwing ourselves down upon the

fern to make a road for the other to follow, when we lucklily discovered a gang of prisoners on a rising ground at some distance, just about to leave off their work in order to be marched back to the settlement; and having made ourselves heard, the whole gang came down to our assistance, and soon succeeded in dragging us out. I lost a small case containing some drawing materials; and the moment the fellows heard of it, they said I should have it on the morrow. I considered it impossible they could find it; it was really like looking for a needle in a bundle of hay; but to men anxious to ingratiate themselves with their new Commandant, nothing was impossible. It was found and restored to me the following day.

The brig did not return to Sydney for a week or ten days, taking with her the few remaining men of the 50th regiment still on the island, with the Major and his family. I applied for the salary of the appointment for the month in which it had been held after my arrival by my predecessor, and received the answer which I expected: "I had not performed the duties of the office, and therefore could not be entitled to any remuneration."

I now removed to Government House, which was large and commodious, equal in size to the old Government House at Sydney. It is said to have

been so constructed, out of all proportion to the other buildings at the settlement, by mistake! The first commandant, by whom the materials for building a store and barrack for the officers and men had been brought from Sydney, conceived that they were intended to accommodate himself and family only. The windows were fortified with iron grating, and the house so constructed that it could be defended, each room in succession, if attacked by the convicts. It is said that the mistake was only discovered when the edifice was completed, on a requisition being made for materials to build the barracks, commissariat, store, &c. He must have had a very large family, with vast ideas, to have required so much accommodation.

The officer of Engineers, Lieutenant L., came and lived with me, and I soon found that I should not be able to attend to both the civil and military charge. I therefore ordered the military duties to be carried on by the next senior officer, Captain Gulston, attending myself only occasionally the parades. It was less necessary I should do so as I could, from my own dwelling, overlook the parade ground, with what was going on.

Although the convicts on the island amounted to about 1400, a want of men for agricultural purposes was still felt. Nearly one-half of them

were required by the engineer department in quarrying, building a new jail, pier, &c.; and from the numbers allowed by government regulations, to act as servants to the civil and military officers on the station, with the invalids, amounting to about three hundred, few remained available for the Superintendent of Agriculture. These three hundred invalids struck me, when I first saw them, as being most of them malingerers, and I soon ascertained that most of the plots and evil doings of the prisoners were planned by these idle fellows, who had no other occupation. I communicated my opinion to the doctor. He agreed with me that my supposition might be correct; yet, still, they were such adepts in dissimulation, it would be difficult to prove that they were only feigning inability to work. I was determined upon ascertaining this, so I wrote to the Colonial Secretary for permission to introduce a modified ration for those who did not work, on the same principle that soldiers on board of ship only receive the same quantity for six men that is granted for the maintenance of four sailors. The answer was satisfactory, but my prescription was only to be put in force with the concurrence of the surgeon. Having thus established a good *starting* point, and ascertained what an idler could live upon without luxuriating, or

getting fat and mischievous, I went to the prisoners' barrack to inform them that Norfolk Island must not be considered a Chelsea Hospital, but that every prisoner must contribute by his labour to his own maintenance, and that I would find employment for both the lame and the blind, suited to their several capacities, and those who did not or could not work must satisfy themselves with low diet, or less food than those men who laboured all day with the hoe or pickaxe. They all declared their willingness, but pleaded inability to work, caused by their different ailments. I think at first only two turned out. I then ordered the new diet-roll to be stuck up on the wall of the prison-yard, and the whole of them to be rationed according to its provision. Calling again a day or two afterwards, several of them said they would try, but that they were sure they would be obliged to return. I advised them to make the attempt, and if they could not succeed, they might then return, as it had been ascertained that for those who did not work, the ration was abundant. There was a great clamour amongst them that they were starving; but before I left the prison, nearly half of them determined upon trying what they could do. None came back; and although some of them held on with great pertinacity, ultimately only seventy

remained, and most of these were perhaps really sick: the others had all been cured.

One of the cockswains, a free man, was married to a New Zealand woman. I got her to teach six or seven intelligent prisoners to prepare hemp, after the manner of the New Zealanders with a shell, and on her succeeding, I obtained for her one shilling per diem as a pension from the Government. Then having directed a long shed to be erected against the sea-wall in front of the prison barracks, I employed all the old and lame men afterwards in this manufactory. If I recollect rightly we received credit for it when sold in Sydney, at the rate of £23 or £24 per ton, the refuse was sent to the Penitentiary at Parramatta.

I had opportunities of trying different experiments with the hemp, but that manufactured by hand was always much the best. The great difficulty was in separating the fibrous from the succulent portion of the plant, there was something corrosive in the juice of the plant which, if not extracted, injured the fibrous portion. Steeping, boiling, and some chemical processes were found to injure it, both in colour and quality; when pressed between two cylinders, where the fibre overlapped or crossed, the strength was impaired, and it would

break in those places when made into whaling line or rope.

The following is a copy of the instructions I gave to Mr. Maclean, the Superintendent of Agriculture, and which was also sent to Sydney to the Colonial Secretary for approval.

1. Your attention is called to the necessity of immediately availing yourself of the natural resources of the island, in order to supply its population both bond and free with food, and with the view to lessen to the utmost possible extent the demands on the government for agricultural produce.

2. In clearing land, great care must be taken that all trees likely to become valuable as timber are preserved as much as possible, the pine more especially. Also it is very desirable that you should continue the system you appear hitherto to have followed, with so much advantage, of leaving occasional masses and belts of underwood to protect future crops from those winds which your experience has shown you are likely to prove injurious to them; and also with a view to afford shelter for cattle depasturing.

3. The commissariat require annually for the use of the Settlement at a rough estimate:—

	lbs.
Beef or mutton for the free inhabitants and the military	90,000
Fresh pork for the prisoners three days each week	208,000
Ditto for salting	104,000
Beef or mutton two days each week for the prisoners	130,000

Maize, 15,000 bushels. Wheat, 2,000. Peas, 1000, with arrow-root and vegetable for the use of the sick in hospital, who appear hitherto to have been but imperfectly supplied with these articles.

4. To afford the necessary supplies of fresh meat, the quantity of live stock on the islands must be increased to 700 horned cattle, 6000 sheep and 3000 pigs, which number I conceive the island can feed with great ease, and without interfering with the land set apart for tillage.

5. Of the horned cattle you will reserve 100 for working oxen and fattening, and 150 cows; the remaining 450 to consist of bulls, two year old steers and heifers, yearlings, and calves. With this number I anticipate you will be able to kill 120 fat bullocks annually, weighing on an average 650 lbs. each.

6. Reserving 3,000 ewes for breeding, from the remainder of the flock I presume you will be able

to kill 2,500 annually, weighing on an average 60 lbs. each.

7. The breed of pigs, with a few exchanges with those persons on the island who may have better, might, you will allow, be easily improved, and it will not be difficult to raise the number of sows to 250. This number ought to supply annually 1,750 hogs, which might be fattened to average 200 lbs. in weight each, with the sweet potato and the surplus maize.

8. Sufficient grain for six months' consumption might always be retained in the commissariat store, as a reserve against fire at the farm buildings or a bad season. The estimate does not of course include the quantity you may require for fattening pigs.

9. The sweet potato you will have to cultivate much more extensively, and I am also anxious that some attempts should be made towards irrigation, by flooding lands where it can be done without expensive machinery. I would recommend your consulting Lieutenant Lugard, Royal Engineers, who I have no doubt will put you in the way of constructing what is required at a trifling expense to the public. The water which passes from the mill might, in my opinion, be made to flood the large meadow near the settlement, in which case part of it might be broken up for lucerne, Cape

barley, maize (to cut green), artificial grass, &c. During the dry season it would become invaluable for the cows and oxen employed at the settlement.

10. I wish you to take immediate charge of the dairy which has hitherto been attached to Government House. You will continue the established allowance of milk and butter as heretofore, but no more than that allowance must be issued to the free population without my express sanction. I am desirous of particularly cautioning you against any deviation from this order, or you will involve yourself in trouble, and occasion invidious comparisons, where the kindness of your motives might lead you to expect a contrary result. If you have reason to apprehend that you will not be able to supply the necessary quantity of butter during any part of the year—a quantity when the supply is more abundant may be salted and reserved for such an occasion; the remaining produce of the dairy must all be applied exclusively to Government purposes, in rearing calves and for the Government pigs.

11. Both labour and expense having been incurred by the public in constructing and properly fencing the stock-yards of individuals; their pigs must not be allowed to roam at large; your own and those of the Commandant less so than those

of any other person. All stray pigs found must therefore be driven to the Government pig-yard, and be considered as the property of the public.

12. As I have expressed a wish to give up Orange Vale Garden for the cultivation of coffee, cotton or indigo on account of Government, you will be prepared at a future period to take charge of it, when the proper season arrives for extending the coffee plantation, by transplanting all shoots or slips that can be supplied from it which may be at your disposal. They must however be planted without the boundary fence. This precaution I conceive necessary, for it will be some time before a garden can be made more immediately in the vicinity of Government House to replace that at Orange Vale.

13. You mentioned to me on some occasions that the horned cattle will not fatten in dry seasons, when grass is scarce. This is to be regretted; but as the attempt has never been made to fatten more than one ox at a time, it is certainly worth another trial with five or six feeding together. You assign as one cause that the cattle are not brought up to stall feed as in England. This might be easily remedied, and at the same time an advantage would be gained. I have observed here that the working bullocks are always released from their labour at

noon, and turned out; and the drivers may be said to be idle for the remainder of the day. I conceive it would answer better to have those employed at the settlement, retained in their pens or stalls during the time the drivers are at their dinners, and cut fodder might then, with a little maize, be given to the oxen. In the afternoon they might resume their labour, and be turned out only at night. The same might be tried at convenient stations near the farming establishment where the oxen are employed.

14. The General Regulations must be acted upon in their true spirit and meaning. The plough requiring few men is to be employed in preference in those places most distant from the settlement, and with reference to the 5th Article of Section 1, I conceive the system of fallowing near the settlement improper. To prevent the land from becoming exhausted, it must be manured, and a proper rotation of crops introduced. It is of great consequence that the convict should be kept constantly employed, and the light gangs at work suitable to their strength. The system of fallowing is said to tend more to increase the growth of weeds than is compensated by any good derived from it. I mention this, however, as a mere remark, not wishing to interfere in the details of that agricultural man-

agement which you are so well qualified to conduct. I must, however, observe to you that Government will no longer be satisfied that the convict is merely kept constantly at work. It requires that he should be usefully employed, consistently with those restrictions which the nature of a penal settlement requires, and so as to ensure the greatest possible return of profit, in order to diminish the enormous expense this establishment has hitherto occasioned.

15. The land on this island appears to be, with very few exceptions, all equally good for agricultural purposes. If the two thousand acres cleared are sufficient to maintain its population, both bond and free, and the island contains twenty-two thousand acres; I will not disguise from you, that I shall expect a progressive increase of produce, to a large amount, for exportation.

16. The island possesses the peculiar property, from its soil and climate, of growing almost anything. We have only to select that kind of produce for which there is the greatest demand and the highest price given; and with proper vigilance, I can see no occasion for restricting the growth of any article with the exception of tobacco. It is your duty, I believe, to attend to this restriction: it is an invidious one, and has been, I must tell

you, hitherto performed in rather a negligent manner. This must be amended; and in future, in order to render this duty less onerous to you, I shall require you, at uncertain periods, (perhaps twice a year), when you will not be expected to visit and inspect every garden in the settlement, and having done so, to report whether or no tobacco has been found growing, and to certify, to the best of your belief, that nothing of the kind is growing on any part of the island.

17. As exports, the most profitable will be barley, rye, cotton, arrow-root, coffee, New Zealand flax, wool, raw hides, and, if selos are found to answer in protecting maize from the weevil, a considerable quantity of maize might also be exported.

18. I have not had sufficient experience to judge of the advantages derived from prisoners having gardens. Some of the inconveniences are, however, sufficiently visible. Amongst others, I find land which, from its proximity to the settlement and your establishment, would be of the utmost value by being easily overlooked, has been given up to them. The principal articles cultivated by the prisoners I see is the sweet potato, and this is also the produce you require principally to cultivate near Longridge for the Government pigs. I there-

fore decidedly disapprove of the prisoners having their gardens so near your farming establishment and buildings; it was for this reason that I objected to a barrack being built there. Neither do I approve of any of the overseers keeping pigs so near those of the Government; those who have no families, I conceive do not require this description of stock as it is issued to them in rations. The gully at the head of the mill dam leading to your stock-yard might, in my opinion, be occasionally flooded with great advantage. The prisoners' gardens there abstract this process; it will therefore be advisable to remove them. I should wish to see the prisoners' gardens contiguous to each other—none in the settlement or adjoining the farm buildings, and if possible in some gully with water flowing through it, in order that they might during the time allowed them to cultivate their gardens, wash and dry their clothes. I conceive a convenient place might be found sufficiently near the Barrack below Longridge in the direction of Cresswell Bay. These men ought to be conducted to and from their gardens regularly by their overseers, and a full equivalent must in every instance be given them for their growing crops when the exchange takes place.

(Signed) T. BUNBURY,
Major, 80th Regiment, Commandant.

I heard any complaints that had to be made against the prisoners for misconducting themselves at my office. The evidence was always taken down by the clerk, and a summary of the proceeding was each month or quarter sent to the Colonial Secretary, containing the decision in each case, and the punishment awarded. No punishments were ever inflicted without it; some who received indulgences such as tobacco, or permission to have a garden, had it taken from them—others were imprisoned for a few days, and others got a severe flogging. It was a practical good working system without humbug. I cannot claim the merit of instituting or doing more than follow it out, without allowing any mistaken notion of compassion or the canting nonsense of the day to affect me. I am convinced that it was the system best calculated to keep in order and improve the moral condition of the villains I had to deal with, without making their situation enviable to those whom misfortune and not crime had reduced to comparative misery at home.

Some of these rascals could not be approached by their overseers without the fear of being murdered by them, with no other plea or object but to be sent to Sydney to be tried, where they might have a chance of effecting their escape. We had

some occupations which were not considered to be quite so healthy as others; one of these was quarrying up to the waist in water for the manufactory of drip stones to be sent to Sydney for sale. Here I made a fresh arrangement. All the prisoners whom accident had so stationed I had removed to other work, whilst the villains who had attempted violence to their overseers I had chained together in gangs of six, so they could not effect by a simultaneous movement their purpose; and these men I placed at the most disagreable and heavy work that I could find for them. The rest of the prisoners worked without manacles.

Being the only magistrate on the island, at first I thought the responsibility too great, and I applied to have an officer appointed as a magistrate to assist me in the performance of these duties. Sir G. Gipps, in reply, told me if I should after a little more experience on the island be still of the same opinion he would accede to my wishes, but he thought I would soon be of a different opinion. It had been the practice formerly; but it had been found to produce nothing but bickerings, disputes, and the retarding of the due discharge of business by the bench. In the event of anything occurring to me, the next senior officer became, in virtue of his office, a magistrate. On searching afterwards

the records of the penal settlement I saw no cause to divide my authority.

I had read in Dr. Ross's Van Diemen's Land Almanack the description of a selo for preserving wheat in use in some part of France, and before leaving Sydney I procured drawings of it with a sufficient explanation to enable me to erect one or more in Norfolk Island should I find it desirable. I was doubtful of succeeding with maize, the pulp being so much larger than in wheat, but having a spare barrack-room where the corn might be well dried before being buried, I determined, with the sanction of the governor of New South Wales, to make two selos to protect the grain from the ravages of the weevil, capable of containing, I think it was, six months' supply for the settlement. They were shaped like the inside of a large jar, about twelve feet in diameter at the base, and gradually widening towards the mouth of the pit. The only brickwork was the dome at the top, the sides not requiring any support.

Our engineer managed the frame work on which to erect the dome very cleverly, but merely with earth dug out of a circular trench about eighteen inches deep, thrown inwards and patted down to the proper shape, correcting it with a flat piece of board hollowed out to the form. On this earth

the dome was built with brick, with a large movable key-stone or plug. When the brick-work was properly set, the key-stone was removed, and well tackling placed over it, and the excavation commenced. The earth, when drawn up, was thrown over the sides so as to cover the brickwork. It is necessary to select a site on a rising ground or hillock, dry, and where water cannot drain through, cut out of sand-stone, as other rock as well as clayey soil are objectionable. Clay when dry will crack, and fissures in the rock may permit the rain water to percolate through. I was not on the island when the selos were opened, but I understand two years afterwards when they were opened, the grain was in as perfect a state as when it was put in, and uninjured by the ravages of insects. They could not live for want of air, the pit being as it were hermetically sealed.

I received also a supply of cattle from New South Wales, but from a principle of false economy, they were so much crowded on board, and so little attention had been paid in embarking them, that more than half died before they arrived at the island.

Strange vessels and without the private signal (which was changed monthly) were not allowed to approach the island, excepting when in distress,

when they were permitted to send a boat on shore for what they might require; but a regular charge was always made, and if not paid on the spot, it was sent to their owners to be credited to Government.

A whaler, whilst I was there, evidently in distress, sent a boat on shore to the settlement for some iron work and spars. The Commander and his wife, a very interesting young woman, came on shore in the boat, and when they called at Government House I asked them to dinner, and as the iron work could not be got ready before next day I offered them a bed. The next morning, the skipper started very early with some of the iron work for his vessel, which had been laying to off the island without anchoring, intending to return on shore to breakfast to convey back the remainder with his wife. Seeing his ship drift away from the island, and fearing she might founder at sea, he prevailed upon the Commander of the Government brig, which was fortunately at her moorings off the settlement, to get under weigh and put him on board his own vessel. A gale of wind suddenly springing up, they were neither of them able to regain the island, and were driven on the coast of New Zealand. The Government brig was absent about twenty days,

and the whaler did not return for upwards of a month. It was a distressing position for a young woman to be placed in, and she seemed inconsolable until I pointed out to her that the Government brig was also under weigh, and that her husband would probably be landed on some other part of the island. The poor creature had no clothes with her excepting those she wore. After breakfast she retired to her own room, I suppose to have a good cry, and I walked out in front of the house equally distressed.

We had several ladies on the island. One of these, the clergyman's sister, paid us an early and unannounced visit, her charitable object being to succour and console my new charge. I even made the ladies acquainted with each other. In the course of the day I saw the clergyman. He told me that his sister had been in a desperate hurry to make her visit, being afraid that some of the other ladies would call first. We met the ladies at dinner *tête-à-tête*.

The next day all the ladies on the island called, and we had no end of parties. My fair friend's wardrobe was now very extensive, and she could appear in all sorts of finery.

I found the whaler's wife to be related to a very pretty girl whom I had met on several occasions

at Windsor in New South Wales. She was a very agreeable, lady-like person, and I cannot conceive how she came to take to such a seafaring life as that pursued by her husband. We always either dined out or had large parties to dine with us, and on these occasions we could muster about twenty persons. An old vehicle, something like a van on springs, had been left by my predecessor. I had this brought to light and fitted up again to convey the ladies to their pic-nic parties. Of these excursions we had a number, and several dances.

When the Government brig returned, she reported having seen the whaler last with a good fish in tow near New Zealand; but the whaler did not return to Norfolk Island for a fortnight afterwards. I met the captain and his wife the following year at New Zealand; both called upon me. The skipper told me his wife never ceased talking of Norfolk Island and the kindness she had experienced. She said it had been the gayest period of her existence. My position, however, in New Zealand was very different. I was living in a sedge hut, and had no means of showing them further civility. The report of this adventure I afterwards learnt had reached Sydney.

Besides the Protestant clergyman, we had two

Catholic priests and a coadjutor on the island. They were all excellent fellows in their way, and instead of cavilling at the punishments I inflicted upon the prisoners, rendered me every assistance. They seemed to be aware that the prisoners would not work, and that good could only be got from them by the use of a strong and severe arm. For myself, I was not so imbued with the maudlin spirit of modern sentimentality, as to be able to comprehend why a villain who had been guilty of every enormity should feel shame at having his back scratched with the cat-o'-nine-tails when he felt none for his atrocious crimes. To talk of degrading some of these men in the eyes of their fellow creatures is a farce.

The ministers of religion on the island did not however agrée together. When I went to the island there was a deal of attempted proselytism and jealousy, and this latterly had been increased by the house of the Protestant having been ordered to be given up to the Catholic mission whenever the former might leave the island. On a new Commandant being appointed, an immediate ejectment was sought, and as this dispute had continued for some years, I was requested by Sir G. Gipps to inquire into it further, and to settle the matter finally. The facts were these. Two houses had

been built by Government, one for the Catholic and the other for the Protestant minister, at a time when neither was on the island. The Protestant minister having arrived first, selected that which had been named for the former, as it had better accommodation for a married man with a family, and hence it was they now sought to eject him. My immediate predecessor had given the Catholic priest a site for a garden with a stream of water running through it, which for size, situation, and soil, surpassed any other, with the exception of that of the Commandant at Orange Vale. He had, moreover, supplied it with the interdicted article, coffee plants, of which there were now a considerable number. I was not long in discovering that the disputing parties sought victory over the other rather than any particular change of quarters, and I framed my conduct accordingly. I sent for the Catholic priest and told him I had received instructions to settle the claims regarding the clergymen's houses definitively. The Protestant minister's house, it appeared, had been originally built for the minister of the Catholic persuasion, and gardens with offices had been given to each. I was therefore prepared to give him possession of the quarter he claimed, but I wished him to understand that the exchange of

gardens would go with the quarters. To this, as I anticipated, he objected, as it had been, he said, fenced and planted under his own superintendence; but still I reminded him there was a garden, although a very indifferent one, appertaining to the other quarter, and I should insist on their not being separated. He said under those circumstances he preferred remaining as he was, and I made my report to the Governor accordingly. The disputants attended the parties at Government House at first in rotation, but afterwards together, and I was glad to see that they latterly became greater friends.

A curious robbery took place whilst I was Commandant. I have selected this incident from many others, as I conceive it to be illustrative of the fortitude and secrecy shown by some of the convicts.

One dark evening, the house of the Protestant clergyman was broken into just as the family were about to retire for the night. Two men entered with their faces blackened and with hospital dresses on. They told the ladies not to be alarmed, and began their search: a work-box was locked, of this they demanded the key, and in it they found one or two sovereigns. They threatened the clergyman with death if he attempted to move or give

the alarm. Having collected all they could carry, they departed in the direction of Government House, or rather some out-buildings where an old prisoner was permitted to sleep with one or two assistants who had charge of the dairy. The road they took was found the following morning strewed with various articles, and amongst others the work-box. The family did not give the alarm for some time afterwards for fear the burglars should return. In the prisoners' barrack and hospital all were reported present and safe under lock and key. Of course suspicion fell upon the dairymen, and I ordered them to be separated and placed in confinement. The conduct of these men had been blameless since their arrival in the island, and it was necessarily a painful duty. The place was searched and the men retained in confinement for nearly a fortnight, but nothing could be proved against them. I ought to state that the police runner, when I sent for him, gave it as his decided opinion that these men were innocent of the charge. He said the stolen property had been strewed about with so much care to lead to the dairy, that he was convinced it was only a feint to hide the retreat of the robbers, and the real direction they had taken. Our inquiries proved fruitless and I gave up all hopes of discovering the perpetrators of the out

rage, much to my annoyance, as it was the first of that nature which had occurred since I had been in charge of the penal settlement.

The surgeon in charge of the Establishment was a person of very intemperate habits, and I believe seldom went to bed sober. One night retiring to rest well-charged as usual, he dreamt that two well-known maniacs, who were kept chained to their beds in the hospital for a long period before I arrived on the island, had stood over his bed each with a lighted candle in his hand. Two or three hours afterwards he became thoroughly awakened, when the dream made so forcible an impression on his mind, that he at once determined on getting up and going to the hospital, in order to ascertain whether it had been an apparition or a reality.

Having knocked at the door and gained admittance quietly, he took a light and went direct to the cells where the two maniacs were confined. They were found to be asleep; but on turning down gently their bed clothes, the shackles of both were found removed from their feet. The rivets had been so arranged that they could be removed at pleasure, and put on again. So soon as it was reported to me, I sent for the police runner, who gave it as his opinion that the door-keeper and

amanuensis of the hospital knew something of the robbery of the clergyman's house, and recommended that he should be immediately placed in close confinement, and his room strictly searched. A sovereign was here found concealed, and of the mode by which it came into his possession he gave only a very lame account. Prisoners are strictly prohibited from having money in their possession. They are all searched on their arrival. The doctor was inconsolable for the loss of his amanuensis. He believed him to be the best man on the island, and entirely innocent of any participation in the affair; from other circumstances which had come to my knowledge, I thought otherwise. Besides after the fearful ordeal my servants had gone through, I did not feel disposed to let any of the party slip through my fingers. It was not the first time that the ghost of these maniacs had appeared at the dread hour of midnight. A young man, a clerk in the commissariat office, on the first night of his arrival on the island, was positive he had seen a similar apparition; but he was only laughed at.

The next day, one of the maniacs, named Mc Manus, having entirely recovered his reason, expressed a desire to have an interview with me. He was a person of very good address, and I told

him if he had any revelation to make, it was necessary I should inform him beforehand that I could hold out very slight hopes of any mitigation of his punishment. The list of crimes against him was too formidable. If he escaped now, he would have to submit to his old sentence, and work in heavy irons.

This fellow's father and sister had both been executed in Van Diemen's Land, from which penal colony, when a convict, he had been sent to Norfolk Island. He was a murderer, and his many subsequent attempts to commit other murders exceeded all belief. Unfortunately for him, he was what the other convicts termed a flash man, and for his proud pre-eminence in villany was classed as one of their leaders; a very dangerous distinction, for on the first symptom of flinching or of resolution to reform, he would be by the other convicts considered a spy, and if not murdered, subject to every description of persecution. The other maniac was a similar character, though not quite so desperate and daring.

McManus told me that he expected no mercy or mitigation of his former sentence; but death would be acceptable to him. He was weary of life, and if he had now come to make any revelation, it was because the police, being on the right scent,

would find out everything without him; but he could shorten the process, and prevent others being suspected who had nothing to do with it. He then told me the whole story; the amanuensis knew and connived at his absence, and had received as his share in the robbery, one sovereign and other trifles, which would be found in a dung heap, not far from my office. They had obtained little plunder. A daring spree appeared to have been the principal object. It must have been known to most of the prisoners, yet had never been divulged until now. I asked him if he was prepared to give his evidence in open court? he replied he did not care what he did.

When the trial of the other pretended maniac came on, he seated himself in a corner of the office, so that he might receive support and be sustained by the walls at the angle. He neither noticed the evidence or McManns, but fixed his eyes upon me with a vacant stare, his mouth half open, and in this position he remained during the whole trial. Whilst the evidence was being written down, I watched the prisoner very narrowly, and once or twice I thought I observed a change in his features when some pointed evidence was being given. To that of McManus he paid no attention, but continued the fixed painful gaze I

have before spoken of. On being asked if he had any reply to make to the evidence, or if he wished to have it read over to him, he only answered by a vacant laugh, but in the same fixed position; but I had seen enough to convince me that he was only shamming.

I told him of my conviction, and if he did not stand up immediately, I should proceed to pass sentence. Seeing this had no effect, I ordered him to be taken out to be immediately flogged to the full extent I had the power of inflicting. This brought my innocent to his senses. He sprang upon his feet, wanted to make his defence, declared that all that had been urged against him was false; but I told him it was too late, I would not now listen to him, or have my time further occupied, and ordered him away.

I sent two or three days afterwards for McManus, and told him that I had, from his manner, a presentiment that there was still some lurking good about him. I was desirous of trying him. His reply was short, but much to the point. "You are not deceived, Sir, you may try me."

He got lighter chains, and the engineer officer found employment for him in the yard amongst the stone-cutters. At first the other convicts at

work there did not like his proximity, particularly the overseers. He had, when in close confinement, attempted to kill one, by striking him with a towel in which he had put a stone, which he tore up in his cell. The constable's cries brought others to his assistance, and with difficulty his life was saved. The man had never injured him; his only object was to get sent to Sydney for trial, and to get a chance of making his escape. He afterwards became a great favourite in the yard, and learnt to become an excellent stone-cutter. He continued to behave well the whole time I remained on the island. The Major who relieved me was in a great state of alarm when he heard that this man was no longer under close custody. He had been one of the jury to try him at Van Diemen's Land, and he said he was the greatest monster he ever heard of. As it could not now be remedied, I begged the Major to pretend not to recollect him. This prisoner continued to behave remarkably well, but the truth must be told. Under the social system which was introduced some time after, he relapsed and was, with many others, tried by a special commission from Sydney and executed.

The surgeon of the Civil Establishment at Norfolk Island was a remarkable clever naturalist in

some branches of the science. Some of his studies and drawings of zoophites, &c., for which Norfolk Island was celebrated, were executed with the utmost fidelity, and were coloured exquisitely. He made a large collection which he intended to have published. I could get from him only the drawing of one fish, which although beautifully executed, was inferior to some of his others, and he evidently thought so himself when he selected it.

The doctor, I afterwards learnt, killed himself with hard drinking, at a time when his conduct would have been made a subject of investigation for having appropriated to his own use the port wine intended for the sick and hospital.

I never heard what became of his drawings. It will have been a great pity should they have been sold with his effects as mere pictures; and science will have lost a great deal by their dispersal. His drawings and descriptions of the Norfolk Island zoophites were invaluable.

I sometimes went to see him when he was making these investigations; the stench from his studio was intolerable.

END OF VOL. II.

London: Printed by A. Schulze, 13, Poland Street.

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Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 19 September, 2016